

**Public hearing: Franklin Twp: Station 206**

***Franklin Twp. Public Hearing: Station  
206***

***11/5/2018***

**Condensed Transcript**

**Prepared by:**

Robert Cirillo  
Robert Cirillo, Inc.

Tuesday, November 06, 2018

Transcript of proceedings.

Page 1

1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
 2 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 3 -----x  
 4  
 5 IN THE MATTER OF:  
 6 PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO  
 7 TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE  
 8 COMPANY LLC (TRANSCO)  
 9 COMPRESSOR STATION 206  
 10 FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY  
 11 -----x  
 12  
 13 Monday, November 5, 2018  
 14 Franklin Township, New Jersey  
 15 Commencing at 6:10 p.m.  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

BEFORE:

GINGER KOPKASH, Hearing Officer  
 Assistant Commissioner  
 Land Use Management

Robert Cirillo, Inc.  
 Certified Court Reporters  
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 Livingston, NJ 07039  
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 Reported by: Bridget Lombardoizzi, CSR, RMR, CRR,

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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good  
 2 evening. This public hearing is  
 3 regarding the pending Freshwater Wetland  
 4 Individual Permit application for  
 5 Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's  
 6 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project.  
 7 This is the first public hearing the  
 8 department will be holding regarding the  
 9 pending permit applications associated  
 10 with the Transco Northeast Supply  
 11 Enhancement Project. The department  
 12 anticipates that it will hold at least one  
 13 more hearing on the project.  
 14 My name is Ginger Kopkash. I am  
 15 the assistant commissioner of land use  
 16 management at New Jersey Department of  
 17 Environmental Protection. I am the hearing  
 18 officer today.  
 19 This evening we are providing an  
 20 opportunity for public comment on the  
 21 Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit  
 22 application, NJDEP File No. 0000-01-1001.3  
 23 FWW18001, submitted to the Division of Land  
 24 Use Regulation for authorization to conduct  
 25 regulated activities in freshwater wetlands

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1 and freshwater wetland transition areas.  
 2 The proposed project involves the  
 3 disturbance of 2.85 acres of freshwater  
 4 wetlands for the construction of a road that  
 5 will provide access to a proposed 32,000  
 6 horse power compressor station located in  
 7 Franklin Township, Somerset County and 0.87  
 8 of an acre of freshwater wetlands for the  
 9 construction of discharge and suction piping  
 10 that will connect this compressor station to  
 11 Transco's existing gas pipeline mainline.  
 12 In addition, the project involves  
 13 the disturbance of 0.327 of an acre of  
 14 freshwater wetlands for the construction of  
 15 a new collocated natural gas pipeline  
 16 located in Sayreville and Old Bridge  
 17 townships, Middlesex County.  
 18 Mitigation is required for any  
 19 authorized impacts to regulated areas in  
 20 accordance with the Freshwater Wetlands  
 21 Protection Act Rules NJAC 7:7A. Our role  
 22 here today is to conduct this hearing to  
 23 obtain supplemental information from the  
 24 public on this permit application. As such,  
 25 no decision has yet been made regarding this

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1 permit application.  
 2 If you wish to speak, you must  
 3 indicate so on the sign-in sheets placed at  
 4 the registration desk in the lobby.  
 5 Now I will discuss the procedural  
 6 aspects of this hearing. The purpose of  
 7 this hearing is to gather public comment  
 8 from anyone who wishes to speak. Speakers  
 9 are handed a card with a number on it when  
 10 they sign in. The number indicates where  
 11 you are in line to speak. If you have  
 12 number 1, you are the first speaker; number  
 13 2, the second speaker, and so on. However,  
 14 it is the department's policy to allow  
 15 public officials as well as poll workers to  
 16 speak first. So they will go to the top of  
 17 the list.  
 18 We ask that all speakers sit in  
 19 the first two rows of the auditorium. The  
 20 goal is to make sure that everyone who  
 21 wishes to speak is given that opportunity.  
 22 Any action taken by any person that  
 23 prevents the public from commenting is  
 24 unacceptable and will not be tolerated.  
 25 Anyone who violates the following rules of

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1 conduct may be removed from the hearing:  
2 No signs mounted on sticks, or  
3 otherwise attached to an object, are allowed  
4 within the auditorium.  
5 No food or drink is allowed within  
6 the auditorium.  
7 Please remain seated until called  
8 forward to provide comment.  
9 No interrupting when someone is  
10 speaking.  
11 No unruly/disruptive behavior. For  
12 example, yelling, chanting, use of foul  
13 language.  
14 Testimony will be limited to three  
15 minutes per speaker.  
16 Please note that this hearing is  
17 neither an adversarial proceeding nor a  
18 contested-case hearing. Persons who speak  
19 will not be sworn in as a witness, and  
20 cross-examination will not be permitted.  
21 People will be called to comment generally  
22 in the order in which they registered.  
23 However, as stated earlier, it is  
24 the department's practice to allow public  
25 officials as well as poll workers to speak

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1 first. Any public official or poll worker  
2 who is registered to speak or wishes to  
3 speak at a specific time, please so advise  
4 us.  
5 The department will not be  
6 responding to questions today. The legal  
7 and technical complexity of the issues  
8 raised and our need to allow time to all who  
9 wish to comment make it impractical to  
10 answer questions in this forum. However,  
11 the DEP staff will be listening closely to  
12 your comments and will consider all comments  
13 and questions in its review of the  
14 transcript of this hearing.  
15 Where your concerns or comments  
16 are not clear to us, we may ask for  
17 clarification so that we can best consider  
18 your comments as we view this application.  
19 Also, we may ask the applicant questions,  
20 but such questions are designed merely to  
21 clarify testimony which is unclear or to  
22 request information concerning a subject we  
23 believe important for the review of the  
24 application.  
25 We appreciate you taking the time

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1 to come here today. Please focus your  
2 comments on this project, as only relevant  
3 comments will be considered in our review  
4 process.  
5 In order to assure that everyone  
6 who wants to speak is given the opportunity,  
7 we ask the speakers to limit their  
8 presentation to three minutes. You will see  
9 a timer at the front of the room that  
10 resembles a traffic light. The green light  
11 will be activated when each person begins  
12 speaking. The yellow light will indicate  
13 approximately one minute remaining. When  
14 the light changes to red, please conclude  
15 your remarks.  
16 Should anyone have insufficient  
17 time to address issues or should anyone  
18 think of additional issues after the  
19 close of this hearing, you may submit  
20 your comments in writing by November 20,  
21 2018.  
22 The DEP mailing address, other  
23 relevant contact information, and important  
24 information about this hearing is listed on  
25 the "Hearing Fact Sheet" available at the

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1 registration desk in the lobby.  
2 Speakers who have prepared written  
3 comments are asked to leave a copy at the  
4 registration desk. Anyone who wants to  
5 speak should have indicated so on the  
6 sign-in sheet. Sign-in sheets are placed at  
7 the registration desk.  
8 All speakers please note: When  
9 your name is called, please come forward,  
10 state your name and spell it for the benefit  
11 of the stenographer. In addition, state  
12 your affiliation. That is, resident, mayor,  
13 et cetera.  
14 We are ready to begin hearing  
15 comments.  
16 So, Mayor Phil Kramer, can you  
17 please come forward, sir?  
18 MAYOR KRAMER: Hello. Thank you.  
19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Spell your  
20 name.  
21 MR. KRAMER: Phillip,  
22 P-H-I-L-L-I-P, Kramer, K-R-A-M-E-R. I am  
23 the mayor and resident of Franklin. Thank  
24 you for letting us speak. Thank you for  
25 hearing us. My concerns are that this does

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1 not minimize the impact on the wetlands, it  
 2 does not try to avoid the wetlands. And the  
 3 only alternative path that has been proposed  
 4 is through a Superfund site. So I do not  
 5 think the application is adequate.  
 6 I also beseech the DEP, even though  
 7 they have already permitted the air permit,  
 8 the minimum standards have changed. And I  
 9 understand if a project were already in  
 10 place and the minimum standards changed, not  
 11 holding the project to those standards. But  
 12 the air quality standards have changed and  
 13 you haven't completely permitted this  
 14 project yet. So I think with new air  
 15 quality standards, we need to go back to  
 16 square one.  
 17 The pollution from the air will  
 18 pollute the water, will pollute the  
 19 wetlands, and eventually Trap Rock is going  
 20 to be a reservoir and that air pollution is  
 21 going to go into that reservoir.  
 22 So I ask the DEP to deny this  
 23 permit, to review the air quality permit and  
 24 deny that.  
 25 Thank you.

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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 2 sir.  
 3 (Applause from audience)  
 4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 5 Assemblyman Joe Danielson.  
 6 MR. DANIELSON: Good evening.  
 7 Joseph Danielson, D-A-N-I-E-L-S-O-N. Good  
 8 evening.  
 9 Thank you for the opportunity to  
 10 voice my concerns on behalf of all my  
 11 constituents, especially those directly  
 12 impacted by the actions of the  
 13 Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company under  
 14 the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project.  
 15 I am the assemblyman that  
 16 represents the 17th District, but, more  
 17 importantly, I'm the father of three  
 18 children in this town. And welcome, by the  
 19 way, to my town, that I was born in.  
 20 I'll be only one voice that you  
 21 hear tonight, but you're going to hear lots  
 22 of voices tonight that are going to express  
 23 serious reservations about granting this  
 24 application. But thank you for holding this  
 25 hearing in my community.

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1 So you understand the dangers this  
 2 project brings to the quality of life, the  
 3 health, the well-being, the safety and  
 4 continued integrity of our environment, an  
 5 environment that was voted number 6 in the  
 6 nation to live in and voted number 1 by  
 7 everybody who lived here.  
 8 Statements and conclusions by  
 9 recent first drafts on the environmental  
 10 impact statement indicate that the gas  
 11 Compressor Station 206 would have  
 12 less-than-significant impact on our  
 13 surrounding area, the environment or health  
 14 of our neighborhoods. And that's like just  
 15 telling the passengers on the Titanic:  
 16 Straighten up the deck chairs, everything  
 17 will be all right.  
 18 Since this project started, I have  
 19 been outspoken in demanding alternative  
 20 solutions to this project. I've written  
 21 Assembly Resolution 164 legislation to stop  
 22 this project.  
 23 (Applause from audience)  
 24 MR. DANIELSON: I am also  
 25 co-sponsor of legislation Assembly Bill 1329

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1 with my running mate, Senator Bob Smith, who  
 2 I also speak on behalf of tonight, my  
 3 running mate, that prohibits the treatment,  
 4 discharge, disposal, storage of wastewater,  
 5 wastewater solids, sludge, drill cuttings,  
 6 and any byproduct resulting from the  
 7 hydraulic fracturing for the purpose of  
 8 natural gas exploration production.  
 9 I'm also sponsoring Assembly Bill  
 10 2614 which increases the civil penalties for  
 11 certain natural gas and hazardous liquid  
 12 safety violations.  
 13 In addition, I continue to work  
 14 with all the impact on municipal courts and  
 15 the freeholder boards of both Middlesex and  
 16 Somerset County.  
 17 Station 206 is a massive,  
 18 high-powered compressor placed in a very  
 19 risky active blasting zone. We're one  
 20 accident away from our community being at  
 21 risk and placing our waterways in harm's way  
 22 of contamination, which would be a major  
 23 consequence to the Raritan Bay.  
 24 You should also know that that's  
 25 relative to our safety resources in the

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1 area, specifically our fire departments.  
 2 We're not equipped for this. We don't have  
 3 the infrastructure. We don't have the  
 4 personnel. We don't have the training.  
 5 You should know one catastrophe,  
 6 when it does happen, it will be over two and  
 7 a half hours before a sustainable operation  
 8 for our first responders gets underway. At  
 9 best there's a water shutoff. At best you  
 10 have eight towns that will have to be  
 11 involved. Hours until a sustainable  
 12 operation will exist. That's indisputable.  
 13 How are we going to react?  
 14 Contamination, which will cause  
 15 potential irreversible damage to our  
 16 fisheries, wildlife, sediment buildup,  
 17 plant erosion and change in the very balance  
 18 of the waterways' ecology system, one that  
 19 nature millions of years to evolve, could be  
 20 destroyed in a few short years.  
 21 And based upon findings under the  
 22 Federal Clean Water Act, one can make the  
 23 argument that the current environmental  
 24 impact of this project negates the proposal  
 25 and does not meet the statutory requirements

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1 to consider granting the certificate of  
 2 compliance.  
 3 Finally, history. Using history as  
 4 a guide. We know that the track record of  
 5 Williams/Transco is less than stellar in  
 6 terms of both safety and maintaining the  
 7 environment, the integrity of our land. And  
 8 I stress the word "our" land.  
 9 This is time for us to say no  
 10 because the well-being of our future -- for  
 11 our future generations is clearly greater,  
 12 for the greater good. And the government,  
 13 meaning you, your first duty is to protect  
 14 the people and not ruin their lives.  
 15 Thank you.  
 16 (Applause from audience)  
 17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.  
 18 There's a representative for Senator  
 19 Bateman. I can't read the cursive. I  
 20 apologize, ma'am.  
 21 MS. BROWN: Hi. My name is Roseann  
 22 Brown.  
 23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Can you spell  
 24 that?  
 25 MS. BROWN: B-R-O-W-N.

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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Your first  
 2 name.  
 3 MS. BROWN: R-O-S-E-A-N-N.  
 4 I currently serve as the chief of  
 5 staff for Senator Bateman. I am also a  
 6 long-time Somerset County resident. I am  
 7 here today on Senator Bateman's behalf to  
 8 express our strong opposition to Compressor  
 9 Station 206.  
 10 For those of you who don't know,  
 11 compressor stations are essentially the  
 12 engines that power pipelines. Compressor  
 13 Station 206 will power Williams/Transco's  
 14 proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement  
 15 Project. We strongly oppose this  
 16 construction.  
 17 Senator Bateman has been one of the  
 18 most outspoken advocates for stopping  
 19 pipelines that pose a threat to the  
 20 environment and to the families that live in  
 21 these construction zones.  
 22 Compressor Station 206 is  
 23 especially concerning to us because the  
 24 construction area goes right through  
 25 residential areas in South Brunswick and

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1 Franklin Township, not to mention acres of  
 2 preserved open space. It's also less than  
 3 five miles from Princeton University.  
 4 Because Compressor Station 206  
 5 would be located near an active quarry, it  
 6 could easily cause a serious explosion or  
 7 fire. The station would emit a high volume  
 8 of methane and greenhouse gasses.  
 9 New Jersey is the most densely  
 10 populated state in the nation. We have  
 11 enough trouble maintaining our air quality  
 12 without this compressor station. Compressor  
 13 stations also emit toxic chemicals that can  
 14 cause cancer, asthma, birth defects and  
 15 other illnesses. As the League of  
 16 Conservation Voters noted in a recent  
 17 editorial, that is a high price to pay for  
 18 gas that we don't need.  
 19 We cannot allow a private company  
 20 to put families, local businesses, all the  
 21 green acres that we have fought to protect  
 22 in harm's way. It's unconscionable.  
 23 We believe that there are other  
 24 ways to explore energy production without  
 25 constructing compressor stations or

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1 pipelines that pose a real threat to our  
2 health and safety.  
3 Local leaders such as the Somerset  
4 County Board of Chosen Freeholders have made  
5 their opposition to this project clear.  
6 Transco should stop this greedy enterprise  
7 and respect the requests of local  
8 landowners by abandoning this project  
9 immediately. Since Transco clearly has no  
10 plans to do that, we will continue to  
11 fight.  
12 The NJDEP and leaders of this  
13 administration have been great partners in  
14 our efforts to start the federal  
15 government's assault on our environmental  
16 rights. I hope that we can continue to work  
17 together on this starting by with putting a  
18 stop to this compressor station once and for  
19 all.  
20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
21 (Applause from audience)  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Councilwoman  
23 Hochman. Councilwoman Hochman.  
24 COUNCILWOMAN HOFFMAN: Hi. I'm Jo  
25 Hochman, H-O-C-H-M-A-N. I'm the

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1 councilwoman in South Brunswick. I was the  
2 first to meet with Williams Company along  
3 with our then mayor Frank Gambatese.  
4 When I met with Williams for the  
5 first time, they did not realize that the  
6 site they were looking at was an active  
7 blasting site. In fact, they knew nothing  
8 about this site whatsoever. They didn't  
9 know it was close to a slush fund that was  
10 completely polluted. They didn't know  
11 anything about what was in the area or what  
12 it could affect or the people it could  
13 affect.  
14 I began to tell them a little bit  
15 about the area and how it would affect over  
16 a thousand people directly across the way  
17 from them, including churches and homes and  
18 schools and how there was no water even  
19 located at that site.  
20 And they said to me, "Well, water  
21 doesn't put out a gas fire."  
22 And I said, "No, but it's  
23 completely in the woods."  
24 That is all pollution that they're  
25 going to be emitting when they have to cool

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1 down the compressor. They began to tell me,  
2 Well, it's not really part of pollution.  
3 It's a natural form that we have to release  
4 certain gasses when it gets too high. And  
5 at that time we have had a fire in North  
6 Brunswick and it was pollutants and it  
7 stayed around for months and went more than  
8 two miles.  
9 And that's why I say it doesn't  
10 matter how close you are to this compressor.  
11 The gasses it will be emitting, the  
12 pollution to the water, is not just going to  
13 happen within a mile or two. It's going to  
14 happen along this whole site.  
15 Our whole area, if there is an  
16 accident, as previously stated, we will have  
17 pollutants in that area for generations and  
18 generations. The water is just barely there  
19 in Franklin along that strip of Route 27.  
20 And we can't afford to have any of  
21 this in the environment with so many people,  
22 with the university, with a mosque close by  
23 in the area. There are many, many houses of  
24 worship. If all of this comes to be, we're  
25 going to have an area that's completely

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1 blighted.  
2 And what do you do with all the  
3 people that would be affected by the  
4 pollutants from this compressor station?  
5 Especially when Williams knew nothing about  
6 the area that they were coming to.  
7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
8 ma'am.  
9 (Applause from audience)  
10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Excuse me.  
11 All right. We have almost 100 speakers  
12 tonight.  
13 (Applause from audience)  
14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.  
15 Thank you for the clap. And so when I'm  
16 calling a name up and they can't hear  
17 because you're applauding, that person, you  
18 know -- it's just going to take a lot  
19 longer. We want everybody to have a chance  
20 to speak, but please refrain from clapping.  
21 All right?  
22 So speaker number 1, Ciro. Speaker  
23 number 1? Okay. Great. Thank you, sir.  
24 Can you spell your name?  
25 MR. SCALERA: Yes. C-I-R-O, last

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1 name is Scalera, S-C-A-L-E-R-A.  
2 The first thing I'd like to do  
3 is provide a copy --  
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: I can't hear  
5 you.  
6 MR. SCALERA: A copy of the  
7 statement for the record.  
8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
9 MR. SCALERA: I'm director in  
10 government relations for the New Jersey  
11 Laborers' Union. Our union represents  
12 25,000 laborers in New Jersey and their  
13 signatory contractors. We work statewide  
14 with numerous stakeholders to promote  
15 investment in economic development,  
16 transportation and the utility  
17 infrastructure.  
18 Our union supports an energy policy  
19 that relies on a mix of energy resources  
20 that meets our societal needs in a  
21 cost-efficient and safe way. This is based  
22 on a pragmatic view of the complexities  
23 regarding the energy industry and our  
24 economy. We work on all forms of energy:  
25 solar, wind, pipeline, nuclear. A natural

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1 gas energy infrastructure proposal, like any  
2 other proposal, must be considered  
3 carefully. What it cannot be is rejected  
4 summarily.  
5 We support the Williams Company  
6 NESE project for a number of reasons. It  
7 cannot be underestimated how important  
8 continuous capital investment in existing  
9 energy infrastructure and improvements is  
10 and how it will help to insure availability  
11 and stability of supply.  
12 New Jersey utility assets, whether  
13 water, gas or electric, are plagued with old  
14 and aging infrastructure. This project will  
15 provide an enhancement of existing  
16 infrastructure. About half of the natural  
17 gas used by New Jersey residents and  
18 businesses comes from this existing system.  
19 It must be maintained and appropriately  
20 enhanced.  
21 I delineated my statements, several  
22 reasons why we support this. NESE will help  
23 remove millions of tons of CO2 from our air.  
24 Continuous investment in this infrastructure  
25 helps to assure these annual emissions

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1 goals.  
2 We also support the expansion of  
3 renewable energy resources. We're in the  
4 middle of participating in the first several  
5 wind cases in New Jersey. This is all  
6 positive.  
7 However, we only need a transition  
8 to those resources and we must maintain our  
9 existing system such as the NESE system if  
10 we're going to be able to supply New Jersey  
11 residents and businesses with the energy  
12 they need.  
13 Thank you very much.  
14 (Applause from audience)  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
16 I'm going to just say it one last  
17 time. There can be no booing, chanting. If  
18 you do it again, I will have to have you  
19 removed from the hearing location. The goal  
20 here is to allow every person to state how  
21 they feel, what their position is, and the  
22 freedom to do so without anybody trying to  
23 intimidate them.  
24 All right. So I neglected to ask  
25 if there were any poll workers who had

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1 signed up. I apologize.  
2 Can you please come forward? Thank  
3 you, ma'am.  
4 MS. NOLAN: Thank you. My name is  
5 Edith Nolan, N-O-L-A-N. I live right there  
6 at Woodhaven, which is a low-income  
7 subsidized-income housing with children,  
8 disabled people and elderly people. It's  
9 my concern -- I'm very concerned about  
10 this because we don't even live a mile  
11 away.  
12 I have two specific questions:  
13 One, I haven't heard anything about the  
14 noise pollution. I understand that there's  
15 a low hum that's going to happen. I haven't  
16 heard -- I have a hearing aid so I don't  
17 know how that's going to affect the hearing  
18 aids or how it's going to affect kids, but  
19 also how it's going to affect the wildlife.  
20 That low hum is supposedly below human, but  
21 what about animals? What about people with  
22 dogs and cats that live there? And the deer  
23 and the foxes and all the other wild animals  
24 that live in that area.  
25 My second concern is the air

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1 pollution because it gets vented. Venting  
2 periodically is what I heard and that it  
3 will smell like rotten eggs or onions, but  
4 it will go up in the air and it won't bother  
5 anybody.  
6 Well, how can they control the  
7 weather? You know it's going to come back  
8 down. I mean, what are they doing about the  
9 kids who are stopping at the bus stop when  
10 the air gets vented? Because there's no  
11 schedule for the venting. It just happens  
12 when they need to do it.  
13 So those are my two main concerns.  
14 Thank you.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
16 ma'am.  
17 Are there any other poll workers  
18 here this evening?  
19 Thank you, sir.  
20 MR. CHASE: I'm a councilman. I  
21 wasn't made aware that I could sign up to  
22 speak early.  
23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I'm  
24 sorry. I apologize.  
25 MR. CHASE: Well, it happens.

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1 Theodore, T-H-E-O-D-O-R-E, Chase, C-H-A-S-E,  
2 Jr. I'm councilman for the first ward of  
3 Franklin Township, which is where the  
4 proposed compressor station would be  
5 located. I live about a mile away.  
6 I'm opposed to the compressor  
7 station in general for reasons given by  
8 prior speakers, particularly Assemblyman  
9 Danielson.  
10 In short, if there was a fire at  
11 the compressor station, I feel that it will  
12 set the woods on fire with serious effects  
13 to anybody who lives downwind from the  
14 fire.  
15 But I wanted to address, secondly,  
16 the wetlands permit for the access road.  
17 The access road is run almost entirely  
18 through wetlands. Williams/Transco has  
19 asserted that they should be able to use  
20 this route because there's no other feasible  
21 route.  
22 There is a feasible route which  
23 will not involve wetlands from the EPA  
24 driveway. They have asserted that it's not  
25 legally possible to use this route. That's

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1 their position. This has not been tested  
2 legally by either the township or the EPA.  
3 And another possibility will be  
4 to come in from Route 27 along the pipeline  
5 right-of-way. This has never been  
6 discussed.  
7 So I call on the DEP to deny the  
8 permit requested here until all other  
9 possibilities have been put forward.  
10 Thank you.  
11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
12 sir.  
13 Were there any other  
14 representatives who didn't have a chance to  
15 sign in that would like to speak?  
16 Any poll workers?  
17 All right. Then we'll get back.  
18 Speaker number 2, Michael Makarski.  
19 MR. MARKARSKI: I'm already here.  
20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I'm  
21 sorry.  
22 MR. MARKARSKI: Sure. It's  
23 M-A-R-K-S-K-I.  
24 Good evening and thank you for the  
25 opportunity to be heard this evening. As I

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1 stated, my name is Michael Makarski. I'm a  
2 Somerset County resident and I represent the  
3 Engineers' Labor Employer Cooperative.  
4 We're the labor management fund for the more  
5 than 7,100 members of the Operating  
6 Engineers Local 825 and the nearly 1,000  
7 signatory contractors who employ them.  
8 We believe that in order for New  
9 Jersey to be more affordable for our current  
10 population and more competitive to attract  
11 and retain new businesses or residents,  
12 that we need a diverse energy portfolio.  
13 The Northeast Supply Enhancement is the  
14 first step to creating that diverse  
15 portfolio.  
16 For a project that is an  
17 enhancement of the existing infrastructure,  
18 the numbers are simple: 2,400 new jobs for  
19 hardworking men and women in New Jersey and  
20 more than \$16 million in new state and  
21 local tax revenues. This is the type of  
22 boost our state economy desperately needs.  
23 Additionally, the positive  
24 environmental impacts of the project are  
25 critical for our state. The additional



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1 clean natural gas will be transported  
2 through this line, will help the  
3 displacement of nearly 13 million barrels of  
4 heating oil and reduce CO2 emissions by up  
5 to 3 million tons per year.  
6 A project like the Northeast Supply  
7 Enhancement that provides full economic and  
8 environmental benefits, is the type of 21st  
9 century investment we need to make in New  
10 Jersey. So on behalf of our organization,  
11 we urge the DEP to swiftly move and approve  
12 this application.  
13 Thank you.  
14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
15 sir.  
16 Speaker number three, Chris Hartman  
17 MR. HARTMAN: Thank you very much.  
18 That's C-H-R-I-S and last name is  
19 H-A-R-T-M-A-N.  
20 My name is Chris Hartman. I'm the  
21 vice president of the New Jersey Alliance  
22 for Action. And just for the record, the  
23 Alliance for Action includes about 2,500 of  
24 New Jersey's top labor, professional,  
25 academic and government representatives.

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1 And our mission is to improve New Jersey's  
2 economy through the promotion of responsible  
3 infrastructure investment.  
4 For over 40 years, the Alliance has  
5 focused exclusively on infrastructure issues  
6 important for New Jersey and the region.  
7 And that includes transportation, water,  
8 drinking water, wastewater, coastal  
9 protection, harbor dredging, energy, and  
10 renewable energy as well.  
11 The Alliance for Action supports  
12 DEP in issuing the Freshwater Wetlands  
13 Permit to the Northeast Supply Enhancement  
14 Project. We believe that the \$1 billion  
15 enhancement of the existing infrastructure  
16 will improve the transition pipeline system  
17 that transports much of the natural gas  
18 consumed in the northeastern parts of the  
19 United States.  
20 And as our state energy needs  
21 continue to grow and natural gas supplies  
22 have difficulty reaching our regions during  
23 times of high demand, such as the middle of  
24 winter, natural gas continues to be a  
25 critical component of the mix of energy

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1 sources necessary to meet the region's  
2 growing energy needs. It actually  
3 complements our energy mix with the  
4 reliability and flexibility needed to  
5 support the growing renewals component that  
6 we also support.  
7 In addition to delivering enough  
8 gas to serve over two million homes, the  
9 project enables our region to actually  
10 reduce our greenhouse gas footprint.  
11 Converting customers' natural gas can reduce  
12 our CO2 emissions by up to 2.4 million tons  
13 per year. That reduces smog, acid rain and  
14 other particulates. The compressor station  
15 itself, while a state-of-the-art air  
16 emission control measures, to reduce NOX, CO  
17 and HAP levels.  
18 Williams also located the  
19 compressor station to have minimal impact on  
20 the surrounding wetlands and is going to  
21 work with the Corps of Engineers and the DEP  
22 on mitigation plans to avoid harming any  
23 wetland region.  
24 The project also aims to have  
25 virtually zero impact on noise quality in

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1 the region, as proposed facilities are on  
2 site, outside of our homes, and will have a  
3 low decibel level, probably about a  
4 refrigerator.  
5 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: No,  
6 it won't.  
7 MR. HARTMAN: The project will also  
8 be built by -- it might.  
9 The project will also be built by  
10 local laborers, men and women that live in  
11 this area and care about safety and their  
12 homes.  
13 The Alliance for Action urges the  
14 DEP to approve the Northeast Supply  
15 Enhancement in its compressor station  
16 permit. Our job is to be facilitators. So  
17 we stand ready to speak with anybody, both  
18 for and against the project.  
19 Thank you very much for giving us  
20 the opportunity today.  
21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
22 Speaker number 4, Dan Kennedy.  
23 MR. KENNEDY: Dan, D-A-N, Kennedy,  
24 K-E-N-N-E-D-D-Y, spelled like the president.  
25 No relation.

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1 Good evening. My name is Dan  
 2 Kennedy, director of environmental and  
 3 utility operations for the Utility and  
 4 Transportation Contractors Association of  
 5 New Jersey, the UTCA.  
 6 We are a nonprofit trade  
 7 association founded in 1965 and represent  
 8 approximately 900 member firms active in all  
 9 phases of heavy highway and utility, marine  
 10 construction, as well as working on  
 11 segregation of brownfields and contaminated  
 12 sites.  
 13 UTCA supports the DEP issuing a  
 14 freshwater wetlands permit for this  
 15 project. We support -- our support is  
 16 largely based on the fact that this project  
 17 is being done as an enhancement of an  
 18 existing infrastructure located in New  
 19 Jersey. The existing Transco system  
 20 includes more than 500 miles of underground  
 21 lines and five compressor facilities already  
 22 operated in New Jersey.  
 23 The UTC believes in cleaner fuels  
 24 like natural gas. We believe it's a  
 25 critical part of the region's needs for

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1 energy and economy. We feel the same way  
 2 about investing in renewable energy  
 3 infrastructure, like offshore wind and  
 4 utility scale solar. By supplying the  
 5 energy needs for the region with cleaner  
 6 fuels, there will be significant reduction  
 7 in air pollutants which has a positive  
 8 impact on the residents of the State of New  
 9 Jersey because cleaner air is felt in  
 10 neighboring states.  
 11 Luckily for New Jersey, most of the  
 12 economic benefits of construction are in New  
 13 Jersey. We're over 230 million and  
 14 additional economic activity is expected  
 15 which translates into other 2,400 direct and  
 16 indirect jobs in New Jersey.  
 17 But tonight we're here to testify  
 18 specifically in regards to the project's  
 19 impact on wetlands, which is the subject of  
 20 this hearing. My review of the permit  
 21 application leads me to believe the  
 22 following:  
 23 As a former DEP senior official, in  
 24 my previous role as a commissioner, I  
 25 personally worked within the framework of

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1 the Clean Water Act to see that applications  
 2 met state guidelines and regulations, not to  
 3 mention best management practices. I find  
 4 this application to be consistent with state  
 5 and federal guidelines while taking  
 6 advantage of lessons learned in New Jersey  
 7 with the construction of similar gas  
 8 pipelines.  
 9 We intend to submit comments on the  
 10 record by the deadlines our Committeeman  
 11 represented. We have other thoughts on this,  
 12 but for now I'll end by saying UTCA trusts  
 13 that after the DEP completes its critical  
 14 investigation of this project, it will find  
 15 a solid basis to issue this permit with  
 16 conditions that will minimize risks to the  
 17 community and environment.  
 18 Thank you very much for the time  
 19 for my comments.  
 20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you  
 21 very much.  
 22 Speaker number 5.  
 23 MR. VASUDEV: My name is Jagdish,  
 24 J-A-G-D-I-S-H, last name is Vasudev,  
 25 V-A-S-U-D-E-V.

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1 I am one of the residents of the  
 2 Princeton Manor community and I'm also a  
 3 member of the New Jersey Department of  
 4 Health, Advisory Council on Population  
 5 Health.  
 6 As a member of that advisory  
 7 council, I'm representing myself, but  
 8 because of my involvement with the Advisory  
 9 Council on the Population Health, I just  
 10 wanted to let you know that I'm very  
 11 concerned about the impact of this  
 12 particular project on the health of the  
 13 community, surrounding the compressor  
 14 station.  
 15 Is NJ Department of Environmental  
 16 Protection going to protect the community or  
 17 let the Transco disregard the Clean Water  
 18 Act's regulations causing the community  
 19 members to suffer?  
 20 Transco's Freshwater Wetlands  
 21 Permit application does not satisfy the  
 22 minimum requirements set out in New Jersey's  
 23 Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, which  
 24 seeks to first award it and then minimize  
 25 the residents, the impacts, before engaging

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1 in mitigation.  
2 Transco has not addressed  
3 compliance with state and federal standards  
4 due to its failure to demonstrate that the  
5 site of the Compressor Station 206 could not  
6 be situated at a location that would  
7 completely avoid impact of freshwater  
8 wetlands.  
9 Transco asserted in March of 2017  
10 that hazardous air pollutant emissions at  
11 the compressor station would be below  
12 NJDEP's thresholds. This is no longer  
13 correct. Transco's position on the health  
14 impact of hazardous air pollution was based  
15 on compliance with the old NJDEP threshold  
16 developed 25 years ago.  
17 The project area's air quality is  
18 already unhealthy. Construction of the  
19 pipeline will emit nitrogen oxides in  
20 quantities that is well above acceptable  
21 limits. Transco states that mitigation will  
22 occur through offsets elsewhere, but does  
23 not supply details. In any case, the people  
24 of New Jersey will bear the impact of  
25 emissions of nitrogen oxide, a cause of

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1 significant illness and premature deaths.  
2 Transco also impose the requirement  
3 of the Clean Water Act using a single  
4 sentence: "The project will employ a soil  
5 and sedimentation control plan and best  
6 management practices," instead of  
7 evaluation and tests. In other words,  
8 Transco is saying "Trust us" while  
9 disregarding the Clean Water Act.  
10 Again, my concern is the impact  
11 on the health of the community, health of  
12 seniors, and health of our children.  
13 Thank you very much for giving me  
14 the time.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
16 (Applause from audience)  
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Can I ask you  
18 a question, sir?  
19 Please, can you refrain from  
20 clapping?  
21 Would you mind giving us your  
22 written comments?  
23 MR. VASUDEV: I do not like that.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
25 you. Thank you.

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1 All right. Speaker number 6,  
2 please. Gabe.  
3 MR. SPILER: My name is Gabe  
4 Spiler, S-P-I-L-E-R.  
5 I'd first like to start by reading  
6 you some statements and then tell you who  
7 made those statements.  
8 "It is a social and moral  
9 obligation to create a safe and clean  
10 environment for future generations. In the  
11 absence of strong leadership at our federal  
12 level, the states are taking it upon  
13 themselves to combat climate change, and I'm  
14 proud to say that New Jersey is leading that  
15 effort."  
16 That statement was made by our  
17 governor, Governor Murphy. I urge you to  
18 deny these permits. Don't make our  
19 governor's words hollow. Don't make our  
20 governor into a liar.  
21 "Across our state, New Jerseyans  
22 are experiencing destructive effects of  
23 climate change. We must do whatever we can  
24 to prevent tragedies and protect our  
25 residents by controlling greenhouse gasses."

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1  
2 That statement was made by our  
3 governor. Our governor's words are not  
4 hollow. We take them seriously. We don't  
5 want him to be seen as a liar.  
6 "Carbon emissions nationwide is not  
7 only a shameful move by the Trump  
8 administration, but one that puts lives at  
9 risks and drastically harms human health.  
10 While the Trump administration turns a  
11 blind eye to the reality of climate change,  
12 my administration remains committed to  
13 keeping the state on a path to 100 percent  
14 clean energy."  
15 That statement was made by our  
16 governor. Please don't make his words  
17 hollow. Please don't make him into a  
18 liar.  
19 Our governor's website indicates  
20 that his environmental key initiatives is  
21 restoring New Jersey's participation in the  
22 regional greenhouse gas initiative and he  
23 promises in his website to protect the  
24 quality of our air and our water.  
25 Please don't make our governor's

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1 words hollow. Deny these permits.  
2 I live in Princeton Manor. We have  
3 700 senior residents. We are across the  
4 road to the Compressor Station 206. The  
5 grounds in our community are completely  
6 saturated. We have difficulty mowing  
7 our lawns because the grounds are always  
8 wet.  
9 My home -- which I've given you six  
10 pictures of. Do you have them?  
11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I do.  
12 MR. SPILER: My home is on the  
13 fringe of wetlands. The water is rising in  
14 the back of my home, has taken over my patio  
15 and my patio is collapsing. You can see it  
16 in the pictures.  
17 I was told that I cannot adjust  
18 these wetlands because you cannot touch  
19 wetlands. So when I asked to regrade the  
20 area to stop the water from entering my  
21 land, I was told I couldn't touch it, yet  
22 you're about to approve regrading almost  
23 three acres of wetlands. Three acres that  
24 will cause stormwater runoff into that same  
25 area which will destroy my home. And I'm

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1 very concerned about that.  
2 The Administrative Code requires  
3 Transco to follow -- can you give me 30  
4 seconds more, please? -- requires Transco to  
5 follow the LEDPA law, the least  
6 environmentally damaging practical  
7 alternative.  
8 They have made no attempts -- I've  
9 made statements here about mitigating  
10 damages and minimizing it, but the  
11 requirement in step one is to avoid using  
12 freshwater wetlands. Not to mitigate them  
13 or minimize them, but to avoid it.  
14 Please hold them accountable to the  
15 statute. I'd like to hold you accountable  
16 to the statute. I'd like to hold our  
17 governor accountable to the statute. The  
18 statutes are very clear: avoid wetlands  
19 first.  
20 Thank you very much.  
21 (Applause from audience)  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
23 Speaker number 7, Jeff Eisenberg.  
24 Can speaker number 8 get behind  
25 speaker number 7?

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1 MR. EISENBERG: Jeff Eisenberg,  
2 J-E-F-F E-I-S-E-N-B-E-R-G, and I'm a  
3 resident. My wife and I have been living in  
4 Princeton Manor in Kendall Park for three  
5 and a half years, both retired now. We came  
6 here after successful careers to escape the  
7 rat race and the noise and air pollution of  
8 New York City.  
9 We specifically chose this area of  
10 central New Jersey for its pristine and  
11 bucolic surroundings and for the proximity  
12 to Princeton and the university.  
13 We made a wise choice. We love our  
14 home, our community, and enjoy the  
15 surrounding area very much. However, our  
16 contentment may now be in jeopardy. Our  
17 adult community is comprised of 349 homes  
18 all between one-half mile and one mile of  
19 the proposed NESE Compressor Station 206.  
20 There are several other residential  
21 communities located within a similar  
22 distance from the NESE project.  
23 I am here as a concerned citizen to  
24 speak about what I view as the misguided and  
25 illogical construction of NESE Compressor

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1 Station 206.  
2 This project in my view has many  
3 potential hazards, including likely leakage  
4 of toxic gasses, noise pollution during  
5 blowouts, old and insufficient piping under  
6 increased pressure. And the site selected,  
7 as has been mentioned already, is directly  
8 adjacent to a rock-blasting active quarry  
9 with frequent ground-shaking explosions.  
10 But the particular reason I'm here  
11 today is the negative impact on over 41  
12 acres of wetlands, which includes 20 acres  
13 of forested wetlands. The NESE project will  
14 extinguish 35 acres of upland forest and  
15 there will be a permanent loss of 2.64 acres  
16 of forested wetlands. This will result in  
17 more diminishment and destruction of our  
18 natural environment.  
19 When as a nation and as a state  
20 will we start to reverse this negative  
21 spiral in the environmental tide? As FDR  
22 once said, "The nation that destroys its  
23 soils destroys itself." Forests are the  
24 lungs of our land, purifying the air and  
25 giving fresh strength to our people. How

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1 timely and, unfortunately, a prophetic  
2 statement this was.  
3 Thank you.  
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
5 Number 8, speaker 9, and then  
6 number 10. And 10, can you get behind  
7 speaker number 9?  
8 All right.  
9 MR. CARROLL: David Carol,  
10 C-A-R-R-O-L-L. Commissioners, you're aware  
11 this matter involves the individual wetlands  
12 permit application under the statute and  
13 regulations. A permit which can be granted  
14 if, and only if, you are satisfied, the  
15 department is satisfied that the 15  
16 subcriteria have all been met. It's very  
17 specific. Those criteria are listed in  
18 Section 10.2. 10.2B.  
19 Now all of the criteria are  
20 important, but with only three minutes to  
21 speak, I'm going to focus my comments on one  
22 of those criteria, specifically subsection  
23 12, which is the public interest  
24 requirement.  
25 I read through the applicant's

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1 report and several facts are clear. Number  
2 one. This project will not provide any  
3 benefit whatsoever to the State of New  
4 Jersey or its residents. In the words of  
5 the applicant, it is solely designated --  
6 solely designed to "facilitate New York  
7 State and New York City energy and  
8 environmental goals."  
9 Fact number two. In contrast to  
10 benefits, proposed benefits, the detrimental  
11 impacts that are the subject of this hearing  
12 will fall almost exclusively on the land  
13 and people of the State of New Jersey.  
14 These include not just the long-lost  
15 wetlands, which is the primary subject of  
16 this hearing, but also many other  
17 environmental impacts, which I believe fall  
18 within the rubric of the public interest  
19 criteria.  
20 Now, I'm not saying that promoting  
21 access to gas transmission to adjoining  
22 states does not register something on the  
23 scale of public interest. My point is that  
24 that public interest weighs significantly  
25 less than if the services were going to gas

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1 customers here in New Jersey.  
2 The less of a public interest  
3 benefit to New Jersey, the more weight you  
4 need to give to New Jersey's primary  
5 interest in avoiding the detrimental impacts  
6 of wetlands destruction.  
7 The regulation addresses this by  
8 requiring you to "consider the economic  
9 value of public and private and promotes  
10 activity to the general area." That's in  
11 quotes. The reference to the general area  
12 is obviously the area around individual  
13 wetland disturbances, not to the whole  
14 state, much less to other states.  
15 Another consideration of a wetlands  
16 application is the interest of the property  
17 owner in developing this land. We're not  
18 dealing here with a farmer who's trying to  
19 convert his land. The applicant here  
20 decided to acquire this property with one  
21 purpose in mind. They did so at their own  
22 risk with no guarantees of obtaining the  
23 wetlands permit. Their speculation cannot  
24 inform a property right nor can it exempt  
25 them from the wetlands approval process.

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1 There are other aspects of the  
2 public interest section that I will address  
3 in a separate written letter to the  
4 department.  
5 In closing, however, I just want  
6 to comment on Transco's citation to their  
7 plan and service state and their suggestion  
8 that any delays in exploring other sites  
9 and options will result in dire  
10 consequences.  
11 Don't be fooled. Transco is trying  
12 to paint you into a corner. Your obligation  
13 to enforce the freshwater wetlands statute  
14 and regulations is clear and their claim of  
15 urgency is no excuse to waive or overlook  
16 the specific requirements of the law. They  
17 have not complied and the permit should be  
18 denied.  
19 Thank you.  
20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Sir, would  
21 you mind giving us your written comments?  
22 MR. CARROLL: I will send it in a  
23 letter.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
25 you.

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1 Number 9, please.  
2 MR. HOWELL: Jeff Howell, J-E-F-F  
3 H-O-W-E-L-L, South Brunswick resident of  
4 Princeton Manor.  
5 Transco is proposing to eliminate  
6 two forested wetlands within Site 3 in order  
7 to construct Compressor Station 206: one  
8 within the compressor station footprint and  
9 a second wetlands within the proposed access  
10 road through 518.  
11 Filling in the two wetlands will  
12 result in a significant increase in  
13 stormwater runoff, much of which will flow  
14 downhill into the nearby headwaters of  
15 Carters Brook, a tributary which then flows  
16 into the Millstone watershed, a major water  
17 source for people in this region.  
18 NJDEP knows that Site 3 does not  
19 comply with many requirements of the Clean  
20 Water Act, Section 202. And the New Jersey  
21 Freshwater Protection Act rules  
22 Administrative Code 7:7A.  
23 Based on these known deficiencies,  
24 NJDEP should reject Transco's wetlands  
25 permit application for Site 3. Transco

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1 should reconsider the 41 potential  
2 compressor station sites which they  
3 initially identified and subject these sites  
4 to a more rigorous alternative site  
5 analysis, placing a high priority on  
6 preserving valuable forested freshwater  
7 wetlands.  
8 Transco's selection of Site 3,  
9 Compressor Station 206, is problematic due  
10 to its very close proximity to the Higgins  
11 Farm Superfund site, a hazardous waste site  
12 which has been under remediation for 31  
13 years to remove extensive chemical  
14 contamination.  
15 Removing forested wetlands near the  
16 perimeter of Site 3, located very near the  
17 Higgins Superfund site, may have  
18 unanticipated and unpredictable negative  
19 environmental impacts to the changes of the  
20 groundwater and hydrology of the earth.  
21 It is very difficult to predict  
22 with any degree of certainty the effects of  
23 eliminating two forested freshwater wetlands  
24 from Site 3. We should not have to accept  
25 that here.

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1 The magnitude of the contamination  
2 at Higgins Farm Superfund site is  
3 substantial. The NJDEP initially  
4 investigated this site in 1985. A buried  
5 drum dump used to illegally dispose  
6 aggregates of industrial waste over decades  
7 was uncovered. Elevated levels of  
8 chlorobenzene and other toxic chemicals were  
9 found in the wells of various residents  
10 forcing closure of their wells.  
11 Under supervision of the EPA, the  
12 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers excavated and  
13 eventually removed 46,000 hazardous waste  
14 containers and nearly 47,000 tons of  
15 contaminated soil from the landfill located  
16 on the Higgins Farm. Many corroded drums  
17 were leaking and many ruptured drums were  
18 removed.  
19 In 1989 the EPA placed the Higgins  
20 Farm Superfund site on its natural quarries  
21 list, a classification reserved for the most  
22 highly contaminated sites in the country.  
23 After 31 years this site remains an active  
24 quarry in Superfund site setting.  
25 Currently about 100,000 gallons of

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1 contaminated groundwater are being treated  
2 each day at the Higgins Farm Superfund site.  
3 I see I've run out of time, but I  
4 just want to mention that the groundwater  
5 beneath Transco's Site 3 is known to be  
6 contaminated. The EPA maintains four  
7 testing wells on Transco's Site 3 to monitor  
8 the intensity and movement of the  
9 contamination plume in the groundwater. It  
10 does not seem to be a suitable site for a  
11 compressor station.  
12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
13 Sir, you can mail in your comments.  
14 MR. HOWELL: I can mail it.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: I'm  
16 wondering if we can have these stands  
17 available for people to put their -- put  
18 what they're saying on, their speaking  
19 notes. Because I notice people are trying  
20 to wrestle papers and hold the microphones  
21 and the microphones are not on a stand.  
22 It's kind of making it a little awkward for  
23 them. If there's a way that we can raise  
24 those, that would be nice. I think it would  
25 be easier for all.

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1 Thank you.  
2 All right. So can we have speaker  
3 number 11 and 12 come up to the microphones?  
4 And speaker number 10.  
5 MS. BALABAN-EISENBERG: Hi. Eileen,  
6 E-I-L-E-E-N, Balaban-Eisenberg,  
7 B-A-L-A-B-A-N - E-I-S-E-N-B-E-R-G,  
8 resident.  
9 I'm here tonight to voice my  
10 opposition against Williams/Transco NESE  
11 project and Compressor Station 206. I live  
12 in Princeton Manor, an adult community of  
13 700-plus people located directly across  
14 the street from the proposed compressor  
15 site.  
16 I love my neighborhood and have  
17 immense fear over the negative impact of the  
18 NESE project. Our community is located on  
19 top of a high water table which causes the  
20 soil to have poor drainage. Our grounds are  
21 already oversaturated with water. Ponding  
22 and flooding occur. Our community is  
23 surrounded by wetlands. We depend upon  
24 these wetlands to help control ground  
25 erosion, reduce stormwater, and help

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1 minimize our flooding.  
2 Transco's Freshwater Wetlands  
3 Permit application does not satisfy the  
4 minimum requirements set out in New Jersey  
5 Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act which  
6 seems to first avoid wetlands.  
7 Transco has failed to demonstrate  
8 that the site of Compressor Station 206  
9 could not be situated at a location that  
10 would completely avoid impacts to freshwater  
11 wetlands. Rather than truly seeking to  
12 identify the least environmentally  
13 damaging alternative, Transco's final site  
14 selection was made for their cost-saving  
15 benefits.  
16 In addition, Transco's stormwater  
17 management facility's design for compressor  
18 206 fails to meet NJDEP's minimum stormwater  
19 standards. The stormwater basin design  
20 contains numerous errors and does not  
21 comply with the New Jersey dam safety  
22 regulations.  
23 If approved, the construction of  
24 Compressor Station 206 will alter water  
25 flow, causing significant flooding and

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1 erosion which will negatively impact,  
2 endanger and damage the downstream  
3 communities, both in Franklin Township and  
4 South Brunswick Township where thousands of  
5 people live.  
6 Finally, I have asthma. Projects  
7 like these can get air permits because they  
8 only have to report the yearly averages of  
9 emissions. I don't read averages. I  
10 breathe peak exposures to pollution.  
11 Like sponges, our lungs soak up  
12 high pollutants when they are emitted. This  
13 is specially harmful to children and to  
14 seniors. How will I breathe? How will I  
15 feel? Why should I fear for my health and  
16 safety when I'm in my backyard or in the  
17 confines of my own home? I do not want to  
18 be forced to move because of the risks to my  
19 health.  
20 I'm almost done.  
21 I invite anyone from the NJDEP to  
22 come and please see where we live and  
23 understand the negative impact this project  
24 will have on our lives. I beg you, this  
25 project must be stopped. Transco must be

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1 held accountable to the New Jersey  
2 freshwater wetlands and stormwater rules and  
3 regulations. Transco must be held  
4 accountable to we, the people, for our  
5 safety and well-being.  
6 Thank you.  
7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
8 ma'am.  
9 All right. Speakers number 13 and  
10 14, can you also come forward?  
11 Speaker 11. Thank you.  
12 MS. ZHANG: My name is Lu Zhang,  
13 L-U Z-H-A-N-G. I'm a resident of South  
14 Brunswick.  
15 The 17th Century English  
16 philosopher John Locke said "All mankind  
17 being equal and independent, no one ought to  
18 harm another in his life, health, liberty or  
19 possessions." He also said that "Government  
20 has no other end, but the preservation of  
21 property." John Locke greatly influenced  
22 founding fathers in the establishment of  
23 America's first principles, most notably the  
24 recognition of inalienable rights.  
25 One of our founding fathers, Samuel

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1 Adams said, "Among the natural rights of the  
 2 colonists are these: first a right to life,  
 3 secondly to liberty, and, thirdly, to  
 4 property."  
 5 Life and property. These are the  
 6 two elements that are most important to us  
 7 but NESE project would pose danger to. It  
 8 would poison our water and take away our  
 9 health, gradually cause terminal diseases  
 10 and and eventually threaten our life.  
 11 Rising water level would post danger to our  
 12 property. This property is our home, the  
 13 only place that gives us shelter and  
 14 protection.  
 15 The invasion of NESE project in  
 16 central New Jersey would strip away our  
 17 sound environment and slowly lead to our  
 18 homes being uninhabitable and ultimately  
 19 deserted.  
 20 For us, the people who live in this  
 21 area, NESE project would violate the  
 22 fundamental principles and the values which  
 23 this nation was built upon. It is not only  
 24 imprudent to build such a colossal project  
 25 in the highly vital and centralized place,

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1 in the middle of dense population, right  
 2 next to Princeton, the hub of lively culture  
 3 in New Jersey, it is also inhumane, for it  
 4 would endanger our health and destroy our  
 5 homes.  
 6 I ask every one of you, please use  
 7 common sense. When you have the power in  
 8 your hand, please exercise it honestly and  
 9 wisely. Please bring clean renewable energy  
 10 to New Jersey and have a long-term goal in  
 11 mind and use your power to protect your  
 12 people. And, please, be faithful to the  
 13 founding principles of this nation.  
 14 Thank you.  
 15 (Applause from audience)  
 16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Speaker  
 17 number 12.  
 18 MR. ZHANG: Hello. My name is  
 19 Yun-Po Zhang. Y-U-N-P-O, last name  
 20 Z-H-A-N-G. I'm a resident at South  
 21 Brunswick, living in Princeton Manor.  
 22 First, I strongly oppose the gas  
 23 Compressor Station 206 project and would  
 24 request New Jersey DEP to reject the water  
 25 permit. Let me tell you my story to

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1 rationalize what I propose.  
 2 So my house we have is sitting in  
 3 the wetlands areas. The areas our house  
 4 has, including our neighbors, is always  
 5 flooded after 15 minutes of the rain or the  
 6 median rain that we get. But, first, the  
 7 compressor station project will make the  
 8 already wet area even wetter.  
 9 Further, the gas station, the  
 10 project, will produce pollution through the  
 11 pipeline, through the periodical station  
 12 maintenance to release the toxins into the  
 13 air and then, finally, precipitates into the  
 14 water.  
 15 Two, as it has been shown in public  
 16 domain, many diseases, including terminal  
 17 disease associated with this kind of  
 18 pollution and pollutants, through the  
 19 project in our work and in the air will  
 20 endanger our health significantly in our  
 21 generation, including you, our children's  
 22 generation and our grandchildren's  
 23 generation.  
 24 So I think we have to do the  
 25 right thing. As such, I strongly urge the

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1 DEP to reject the water permit which will  
 2 benefit to all of us in terms of health,  
 3 including the DEP staff and your family  
 4 members.  
 5 Thank you.  
 6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 7 Can I also have speaker 14, 15, 16?  
 8 There's also another microphone over there  
 9 if people want to start lining up behind  
 10 that.  
 11 Thank you, sir.  
 12 MR. ASPELL: Good evening. My name  
 13 is Kevin Aspell, A-S-P-E-L-L.  
 14 I, too, am a resident of Princeton  
 15 Manor. But for me to make my point, I have  
 16 to speak a little bit about my personal  
 17 history.  
 18 I was an eight-year-old  
 19 insulin-dependent diabetic. And so for the  
 20 last 56 years, I've struggled with many of  
 21 the challenges of that disease. The eye  
 22 issues, neuropathy issues, cardiac issues.  
 23 I had a heart attack at 30, bypass surgery  
 24 at 35, and finally my kidneys failed about  
 25 19 years ago.



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1 And so I was on dialysis. I was on  
 2 the transplant list. My wife and I went to  
 3 the hospital four times to get a transplant  
 4 and each time we were sent home because the  
 5 organ that was there was matched better by  
 6 somebody else who needed it.  
 7 So finally my wife said "I can't  
 8 deal with this any longer. You're going to  
 9 take one of mine." I would lose arguments  
 10 all the time with my wife, and so she  
 11 donated to me her organ and everything has  
 12 been fine.  
 13 But it didn't fix the root cause  
 14 and the root cause was that I was diabetic.  
 15 So six years ago I did some homework and I  
 16 found a program over in New York  
 17 Presbyterian and I was able to get a  
 18 transplant. So my diabetes is now cured.  
 19 The issue is, is that I have to  
 20 take immunosuppressant drugs. I have to  
 21 lower my immune system to make sure that  
 22 those two organs don't get rejected and  
 23 continue to function in a way that it  
 24 should.  
 25 I know there are other people

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1 within the Princeton Manor community who  
 2 have had transplants. And I know there are  
 3 other people within the Princeton Manor  
 4 community that are frail, that have issues,  
 5 both virus issues, infections, and they too  
 6 have challenges with their immune system and  
 7 the impact on their health.  
 8 And so when I look at the  
 9 documentation and hear about air pollution  
 10 based on the work that the transformer's  
 11 going to do, I hear about toxic conditions  
 12 when clay is disrupted to build the  
 13 compressor.  
 14 And I hear, most significantly,  
 15 challenges about that, the safety and  
 16 well-being of our drinking water based on  
 17 all these challenges. I become very, very  
 18 nervous. So that, on a very, very personal  
 19 level, was important for me to share that  
 20 with the group and let you understand the  
 21 impact it does have on people.  
 22 Thank you.  
 23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 24 sir.  
 25 Can I also have speakers 15, 16, 17

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1 and 18 come up close to the microphone?  
 2 Thank you, ma'am.  
 3 MS. LONDON: My name is Susan  
 4 London, L-O-N-D-O-N, and I'm a resident of  
 5 Franklin Township. I'm here to urge the New  
 6 Jersey DEP not to approve the permit for  
 7 NESE.  
 8 And the point I want to make is one  
 9 that other people have made, that the  
 10 current proposal as it stands is going to  
 11 lead to the flooding of adjacent and  
 12 downstream communities and towns due to the  
 13 combination of several factors. Some have  
 14 already been mentioned. They are going to  
 15 be removing forested wetlands and upland  
 16 forest.  
 17 And the other problem is the  
 18 inadequate stormwater management plan. They  
 19 are currently calling for a bioretention  
 20 basin located on the site where there's a  
 21 high water table and that the bedrock is too  
 22 close to the surface. So that is a flaw  
 23 that needs to be addressed.  
 24 And I'll also point out that there  
 25 is a probable overall increase coming in New

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1 Jersey rainfall, as we've seen over the past  
 2 couple of years with the warming of the  
 3 atmosphere and the oceans. So we can expect  
 4 an increase in the number, duration and  
 5 ferocity of major rainstorms on top of the  
 6 overall increase in general rain saturating  
 7 the areas.  
 8 So we need to seriously worry about  
 9 flooding in New Jersey with all projects  
 10 that are undertaken.  
 11 Thank you.  
 12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 13 ma'am.  
 14 Speaker number 15, Kim.  
 15 MS. FRACZEK: Hi, my name is Kim  
 16 fraczek. I'm the director of Sane Energy  
 17 Project. We're a New York-based nonprofit  
 18 advocacy group. We were funded in 2011.  
 19 From our inception we have worked  
 20 collaboratively with New Jersey residents to  
 21 organize against fossil fuel infrastructure  
 22 and promote a renewable future.  
 23 I come here today to remind you all  
 24 that your DEP Commissioner, Catherine  
 25 McCabe, has stated that she will listen to

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1 law and science, which assures me that you  
2 will take a step in the right direction for  
3 science and stand with the 40 countries  
4 pulling from 6,000 scientific references  
5 that fossil fuel usage must be halted in the  
6 next 12 years or it is game over for this  
7 rare and precious planet.

8 This is the opposite of Williams  
9 Company's plans to lock us into fossil fuel  
10 infrastructure for the next several decades,  
11 running counter to both New Jersey and New  
12 York climate goals.

13 What you've heard from our terrific  
14 laborer brothers and sisters tonight is  
15 actually untrue about methane reducing  
16 greenhouse gasses. The fracking process  
17 life cycle is equal to that of whole,  
18 too-numerous peer-reviewed scientists.  
19 And the majority of the people in this room  
20 will continue to fight for renewable and  
21 local job labor standards. Williams, as we  
22 have experience with, rarely hires local  
23 labor.

24 Law shows us that the New York  
25 Department of Environmental Conservation

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1 rejected Williams Company's permit  
2 application for the Northeast Supply  
3 Enhancement pipeline because it was  
4 incomplete, so I am at a loss why we are  
5 here even having a hearing about an  
6 incomplete application permit.

7 I can assure you that New York  
8 State elected officials throughout our  
9 region are signing on with us to urge our  
10 lawmakers to reject the Williams pipeline.  
11 Our comptroller, Scott Stringer, said that  
12 this is a monumental step backwards in New  
13 York's goal. We know that New York State is  
14 the end game for this pipeline and we don't  
15 need this.

16 We know that New Yorkers end up  
17 footing the bill for this pipeline and New  
18 Jersey and Pennsylvania residents will again  
19 be used as a conduit for an out-of-state  
20 project. Williams is a Fortune 500 company  
21 with a gross revenue of \$8 billion. And as  
22 an interstate pipeline, it's allowed a 14  
23 percent return on equity, an outdated  
24 allowance from a time of higher interest  
25 rates that would make it profitable

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1 regardless of demand.

2 We know that Williams has been a  
3 bad neighbor to New York. We know that when  
4 they installed the Rockaway lateral  
5 pipeline, that would connect to the NESE  
6 pipeline, just days after Superstorm Sandy,  
7 it was approved when people couldn't speak  
8 out in public comments because they were  
9 busy digging their basements out from floods  
10 and the super storm.

11 I warn you, New Jersey, that  
12 Williams is not only a bad neighbor to New  
13 Yorkers, but to Pennsylvania, where I grew  
14 up. Just a few months ago, on a Williams'  
15 construction of their Atlantic Sunrise  
16 pipeline, equal to the NESE pipeline,  
17 Williams temporarily bulldozed a stormwater  
18 detention basin where the runaway water  
19 gathered against a township's declaration  
20 that refused to approve Williams' --

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Can you wrap  
22 up your comments?  
23 MS. FRACZEK: Yes. I have one more  
24 paragraph, short.  
25 They refused to approve Williams'

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1 removal of their stormwater barrier. In an  
2 area never before flooded, Williams'  
3 construction zone destroyed six homes and  
4 damaged 18 others, leaving two girls that  
5 had to be hand-plucked through a window by a  
6 human chain as water rose 4 feet inside the  
7 homes to the tops of vehicles. Not by  
8 Williams, but by local first responders.

9 We know that this is a hearing  
10 about freshwater wetlands and, we assure  
11 you, they will destroy your water and  
12 freshwater wetlands.

13 We know that --

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
15 ma'am.

16 If you have any more comments, you  
17 can --

18 MS. FRACZEK: I'll leave it here.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. You  
20 can always write in.

21 We really need to stick to the  
22 three-minute time limit. There are lots of  
23 people that want to get up and speak.  
24 Everybody, please be mindful of the  
25 stoplight up front. If there's time at the

1 end of the hearing, you can come back up  
 2 again and complete your remarks.  
 3 Speaker -- we're on 16? Sixteen.  
 4 MS. CANEPA: Judith Canepa,  
 5 C-A-N-E-P-A.  
 6 I am also with the Sane Energy  
 7 Project and I'm also in New York City, but  
 8 we have a shared concern with New Jersey  
 9 people. And this pipeline is one of the  
 10 reasons for that concern.  
 11 We have other pipelines that worry  
 12 us very much. Pipelines that come from the  
 13 Marcellus shale, plow through Pennsylvania,  
 14 ram through New Jersey, and then either hit  
 15 the water or come through New York's waters  
 16 or New York itself. And carrying the  
 17 leaking pipe -- pipes leaking methane which  
 18 is constantly emitted from these pipes.  
 19 I just want to say a quick aside  
 20 about pipelines and compressor stations. In  
 21 the Rockaways, where we tried during the  
 22 aftermath of Hurricane Sandy to alert the  
 23 people that this pipeline was being forced  
 24 on them, we found that Williams was hiring  
 25 not local labor, but they were hiring guys

1 from Oklahoma, North Dakota and Texas.  
 2 And they were goose nice guys. We  
 3 watched them trying to lay a pipe under  
 4 Jamaica Bay and they said that they had  
 5 never done it before. They weren't sure how  
 6 to do it. They're Oklahoma guys, are from  
 7 Oklahoma for a reason. Williams/Transco is  
 8 based in Oklahoma and there's a senator in  
 9 Oklahoma named Jim Inhofe. He's been around  
 10 forever. And he just came out last month  
 11 with a letter saying that his -- the process  
 12 of approving water quality certification is  
 13 being abused by certain states and the  
 14 process is being hijacked.  
 15 Well, what states do you think he  
 16 was talking about? He was talking about us.  
 17 He was talking about our waters. He was  
 18 talking about our jobs. He was talking  
 19 about our governors. We don't want New  
 20 Jersey to be sacrificed for a pipeline that  
 21 we don't need, we don't want, we can't  
 22 afford.  
 23 The people of the Rockaways learned  
 24 from the first experience with Williams that  
 25 they're being played and they're being

1 abused. And they went through Hurricane  
 2 Sandy just like New Jersey people did. And  
 3 they voted at their community board 26 to 2  
 4 against having NESE coming in to their  
 5 waters.  
 6 They also voted in their civic  
 7 association unanimously. Don't lay this on  
 8 us. This is a billion-dollar pipeline plus  
 9 a 14 percent profit. We shouldn't have to  
 10 pay for it. New Jersey shouldn't have to  
 11 pay for it.  
 12 Well, what's in those waters? The  
 13 Raritan was very clean. It was a great  
 14 source of fish. And until World War I, when  
 15 urbanization and --  
 16 THE HEARING OFFICER: You're going  
 17 to need to wrap up your comments.  
 18 MS. CANEPA: Okay. So what's in  
 19 the water now is lead, arsenic, cadmium,  
 20 DDT, PCBs, all kinds of stuff trenched in 6  
 21 feet and more deep into those waters. They  
 22 will feed into the Raritan River. There is  
 23 a Jigar according to Rutgers that leads from  
 24 the bay in the --  
 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.

1 Thank you, ma'am.  
 2 MS. CANEPA: -- Raritan River --  
 3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 4 ma'am.  
 5 All right. Everyone needs to stick  
 6 to the three minutes.  
 7 I need speakers 20, 21 and 22 to  
 8 also come forward.  
 9 Speaker 17.  
 10 MS. VIGRASS: Good evening. My  
 11 name is Jhena, J-H-E-N-A, Vigrass,  
 12 V-I-G-R-A-S-S. I am a staff member of the  
 13 National Resources Defense Council speaking  
 14 on behalf of our 48,310 members and  
 15 activists in New Jersey and 2.4 million  
 16 members and activists worldwide. Thank you  
 17 for providing us the opportunity to speak  
 18 today.  
 19 I'm here to echo the concerns  
 20 voiced by at least four New Jersey state and  
 21 national representatives and thousands of  
 22 New Jersey residents regarding the Northeast  
 23 Supply Enhancement Project.  
 24 The project as proposed includes  
 25 the construction of a 32,000 horse power

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1 gas-fired compressor station in Franklin  
2 Township and a 26-inch pipeline running 23  
3 miles through Raritan Bay. These two  
4 projects alone have the potential to harm  
5 over 4,500 acres of forest, wetlands and  
6 ocean corridor in construction and, should  
7 this project move forward, permanently harm  
8 78 of those acres during the ongoing  
9 operation of the pipeline and compressor  
10 station. These areas support features of  
11 ecological, commercial and recreational  
12 importance.

13 The proposed Compressor Station 206  
14 is located near habitats of two vulnerable  
15 bird populations, the American kestrel and  
16 bald eagle. The Raritan and Sandy Hook bays  
17 have 23 species of birds and marine life  
18 that are federally listed as endangered or  
19 threatened and 18 that are state listed  
20 endangered or threatened.

21 Furthermore, as proposed, this  
22 pipeline would press six aquifers, one of  
23 which provides drinking water for  
24 approximately three million residents in New  
25 Jersey. Specifically, Compressor Station

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1 206 is located near New Jersey's second  
2 largest aquifer.

3 The Northeast Supply Enhancement  
4 Project's construction processes could also  
5 harm water quality in New Jersey. The on-  
6 and offshore construction would remove  
7 important vegetation from forests and  
8 wetlands and compact soil, increasing  
9 erosion and stormwater runoff leading to  
10 sedimentation and turbidity in nearby water  
11 bodies.

12 It would also excavate portions of  
13 the sea floor, redistributing settled toxins  
14 like PCB's. These impacts would not only  
15 harm aquatic species, but also the health of  
16 our communities.

17 Every step required in pipeline  
18 construction has the potential to impair  
19 water quality. While the environmental  
20 impacts of pipeline begin at construction,  
21 they can persist for years after it is  
22 completed.

23 Indeed, the many individuals  
24 effects of pipeline construction can have a  
25 cumulative impact that is greater than the

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1 sum of its parts. This project would also  
2 perpetuate our dependence on usage of fossil  
3 fuels, which drives up gas prices and puts  
4 our communities at risk.

5 It is important to note that this  
6 wetland permit is not the only tool New  
7 Jersey has to protect its citizens from the  
8 harms of water pollution and dangerous  
9 pipelines.

10 Under Section 401 of the Federal  
11 Clean Water Act, states are empowered to  
12 prevent the construction of a pipeline if  
13 the pipeline does not demonstrate that it  
14 will comply with state water quality  
15 standards.

16 It would be wholly appropriate for  
17 New Jersey to exercise its power to stop the  
18 pipeline under Section 401 of the Clean  
19 Water Act and we urge New Jersey DEP to take  
20 a close look at this option.

21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
22 Speaker number 18.

23 MS. MOIRANO: Yes. Nancy Moirano,  
24 M-O-I-R-A-N-O. I am a South Brunswick  
25 resident. I live at 59 Inverness Drive in

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1 the community of Princeton Manor. We are a  
2 55-plus community. We are off Route 27, and  
3 the entrance to our community is less than  
4 half a mile from the proposed Compressor  
5 Station 206. All of our homes are within  
6 one mile of this proposed compressor  
7 station.

8 I am concerned. I'm concerned that  
9 Transco's Freshwater Wetlands Permit does  
10 not satisfy the minimum requirements sent  
11 out in New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands  
12 Protection Act. This act first seeks to  
13 avoid and then minimize wetland impacts  
14 before engaging in mitigation.

15 Transco's requirements to satisfy  
16 the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act are  
17 far more rigorous than those presented to  
18 FERC. Transco must first demonstrate the  
19 least environmentally damaging practical  
20 alternative that they have chosen for the  
21 proposed site and project.

22 Transco's analysis did not  
23 identify a nonwetlands site for Compressor  
24 Station 206, but instead, after reviewing 41  
25 sites selected a short list of five, all of

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1 which included substantial forested wetlands  
2 and all five will result in significant  
3 wetland impact.  
4 Transco's final site selection  
5 includes the permanent loss of about three  
6 acres of forested wetlands. Transco is  
7 already the owner of this site and by no  
8 coincidence their main gas pipeline comes  
9 through this site.  
10 Under no circumstances can this  
11 site be considered the least environmentally  
12 damaging practical alternative and, thus, it  
13 is not consistent with the requirements of  
14 the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act or  
15 the Clean Water Act.  
16 I am asking the New Jersey DEP to  
17 reject Transco's freshwater wetland  
18 individual permit application. New Jersey  
19 receives no benefit from Compressor Station  
20 206, no benefit from the Northeast Supply  
21 Enhancement Project.  
22 Thank you for listening. And now I  
23 wish to ask very strongly that the New  
24 Jersey Department of Environmental  
25 Protection act to protect our wetlands and

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1 save our environment. Thank you.  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
3 Speaker number 19.  
4 MR. MOIRANO: I've been upstaged by  
5 my lovely bride. My name is Charles  
6 Moirano, M-O-I-R-A-N-O. I'm also a resident  
7 of Princeton Manor. And I'm here because  
8 Transco wants to install Compressor Station  
9 206 under the auspices of helping New York  
10 City get off fossil fuels, but with total  
11 disregard of our freshwater wetlands.  
12 There also will be no benefit --  
13 and I repeat, no benefit -- derived by New  
14 Jersey for any aspect of the NESE project.  
15 What they forget to mention was the methane  
16 leaking during the production, delivery and  
17 use of natural gas offsets any climate  
18 change benefit expected due to the  
19 conversion of fossil fuels.  
20 Also, there was no mention of the  
21 health risk caused by methane and safety  
22 issues of increasing the pressure in these  
23 old level-one pipelines. Williams/Transco  
24 has set up the perfect trifecta for disaster  
25 which encompasses health risks, safety risk

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1 and environmental destruction as a permanent  
2 destruction of eight years of forested  
3 wetlands.  
4 NESE intends to deliver, and what I  
5 heard today, speaking to the lady from New  
6 York, is that they are going to be  
7 delivering approximately ten times as much  
8 natural gas that is needed by New York City  
9 even if they get the 100 percent conversion  
10 that they anticipate, which we know is  
11 unrealistic.  
12 All this excess is going offshore  
13 and, again, it's all about the almighty  
14 buck. And, believe me, I'm a capitalist. I  
15 am not against people losing jobs. I am  
16 sensitive to the people's needs. I am just  
17 against jobs that are against the  
18 environment. If jobs are needed, Williams  
19 can definitely generate those jobs by  
20 upgrading the existing antiquated pipelines  
21 that go for hundreds of miles within the New  
22 Jersey territory.  
23 The Freshwater Wetlands Protection  
24 Act and rules dictates that a prudent  
25 environmental decision should always do

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1 three things: avoid wetlands, use the least  
2 environmental damaging options, and  
3 investigate damages that would be done  
4 to the wetlands and mitigate as a last  
5 resort after steps one and two have been  
6 followed.  
7 So I make the statement that  
8 Williams/Transco unfortunately has been  
9 negligent on all three of these mandates and  
10 have already minimized to their own  
11 satisfaction.  
12 So I beg of you, New Jersey DEP, to  
13 deny the Freshwater Wetlands Individual  
14 Permit application by Williams/Transco.  
15 Thank you.  
16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
17 Can I have speakers 23 and 24 also  
18 come up to the microphone?  
19 Speaker number 20.  
20 MR. YANG: My name is Jeffrey Yang.  
21 Y-A-N-G is the last name. I'm a resident of  
22 Princeton Manor.  
23 I'm deeply concerned about the  
24 Northeast Supply Enhancement project known  
25 as NESE and I'm urging the NJDEP to reject

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1 Williams/Transco's Freshwater Wetlands  
2 Permit application. And the reason is, as  
3 you have heard from speakers before me,  
4 there are a number of problems with the  
5 project. It has huge negative impacts  
6 environmentally and healthwise, and it also  
7 has a number of safety issues.  
8 And I just wanted to reiterate some  
9 of the facts that the speakers before me  
10 have stated. Williams/Transco has selected  
11 a site which will negatively impact over 41  
12 acres of wetlands. The NESE project does  
13 not meet the standards of New Jersey  
14 stormwater management rules.  
15 Additionally, Transco has not  
16 complied with federal and state senators to  
17 show that the compressor could not be  
18 situated in another location to completely  
19 avoid impact to freshwater wetlands.  
20 The Freshwater Wetlands Protection  
21 Act and rules seek to first avoid, then  
22 minimize, wetland impacts before engaging in  
23 mitigation. Transco has not avoided,  
24 minimized or mitigated impacts in the manner  
25 that is required. They have only minimized

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1 to their own satisfaction.  
2 Now, our nation leads the world in  
3 innovation and protecting the environment.  
4 We are the first to have established the  
5 National Parks system and the world follows  
6 us. We are the first and only to send men  
7 to the moon, and the world learns from us.  
8 The world is moving on, is moving forward  
9 with renewable energy, and we want to be the  
10 leader of this. The world looks to us for  
11 leadership.  
12 Renewable energy provides more and  
13 sustainable jobs. It helps to protect the  
14 environment so that all of us -- our  
15 children, our children's children -- will  
16 enjoy what we have and what we leave them  
17 with.  
18 Thank you.  
19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
20 sir.  
21 Speaker number 21. Your name and  
22 spell it for the record.  
23 MS. SIMONS: My name is Emerlee,  
24 E-M-E-R-L-E-E, Simons, and I'm 16 years old  
25 and a resident of Franklin Township.

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1 I'm very concerned about the state  
2 of the environment for my generation. My  
3 family is certainly aware of our high water  
4 table. After any big rain, our woods  
5 transform into a lake and we worry about a  
6 tree coming down due to the saturated  
7 ground. Once our driveway was blocked for  
8 several days with a tree and downed power  
9 lines. In this last storm, it took out  
10 our mailbox with another tree. Our area  
11 simply cannot accommodate more stormwater  
12 runoff.  
13 However, I worry most about my  
14 grandparents, who live in Princeton Manor.  
15 I worry about the noxious chemicals which  
16 will be spewed from the gigantic smokestacks  
17 visible from their front yard. I especially  
18 worry about the additional amount of gas  
19 which will be piped through the 50-year-old  
20 pipelines near Princeton Manor's only  
21 entrance and exit. Accidents do happen,  
22 and an accident like this can be  
23 catastrophic for my grandparents and for  
24 Princeton Manor.  
25 For this evening, however, I'm

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1 going to concentrate my worries on the water  
2 issues. Princeton Manor already has serious  
3 drainage issues due to wetlands. Many years  
4 ago, when my grandparents first moved into  
5 Princeton Manor, I remember building a fairy  
6 house of sticks and rocks in my  
7 grandparents' backyard, but it fell into a  
8 deep hole beside a trench which opened up  
9 due to the stormwater runoff and the rushing  
10 water after every hard rain.  
11 Their property, nor the other 350  
12 properties in Princeton Manor, can absorb  
13 any more stormwater runoff which would be  
14 one of a serious byproducts from this  
15 compressor station.  
16 It is my understanding that  
17 Williams/Transco looked at 41 sites for  
18 their compressor station and yet chose this  
19 one in a wetlands setting. This would not  
20 only be a terrible environmental impact on  
21 the surrounding wetlands, but would also  
22 result in the cutting down of acres of  
23 wetland forest.  
24 Surely one of those other 40 sites  
25 would be more suitable, would give these

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1 workers good jobs, and would have a much  
2 less disastrous impact on our environment,  
3 for my grandparents, and for my generation.  
4 We are counting on you, the New  
5 Jersey Department of Environmental  
6 Protection, to protect our environment and  
7 our water quality by denying  
8 Williams/Transco the freshwater wetlands  
9 permit. You have the power to stop this  
10 project at this location and I urge you to  
11 do so.  
12 (Applause from audience)  
13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
14 Speaker 22. Can you state your  
15 name and spell it for the record?  
16 MR. POTOSNAK: Ed Potosnak,  
17 P-O-T-O-S-N-A-K. I'm executive director of  
18 the New Jersey League of Conservation  
19 Voters; also a Franklin resident. This  
20 proposed compressor station would be  
21 closer to my house than the nearest grocery  
22 store. It's for this. It's also a personal  
23 issue.  
24 I also served on the Franklin  
25 Township Board of Education. I wanted to

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1 recognize two of my colleagues: president  
2 of the school Board, Nancy LaCorte; and Mike  
3 Smith, who's chaired the policy committee.  
4 I welcome you to the Franklin Township High  
5 School. It's so great to see so many people  
6 here. And I thank the Department of  
7 Environmental Protection for having this  
8 important hearing. We really appreciate it.  
9 And from the bottom of my heart, as a  
10 neighbor of this proposed project, I'm very  
11 grateful.  
12 What I'm here to ask is for you to  
13 say no to the dangerous plan that Transco  
14 has put together to cross 18 wetlands areas,  
15 six of which are classified as exceptional  
16 resources, which are critical to our state  
17 and our future and the future generation,  
18 like the young lady before me, and her  
19 children and grandchildren.  
20 I'm also asking you to say no to a  
21 pipeline and compressor station project  
22 that's going to threaten endangered species  
23 like the bald eagle, osprey and the  
24 black-crown night heron.  
25 I also want to address an important

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1 issue to me with our union brothers and  
2 sisters on the jobs issues, because I think  
3 it's important to recognize that the  
4 environmental partners came out with a  
5 report recently that said 79 percent of all  
6 of the energy generation and efficiency jobs  
7 in New Jersey are in clean energy.  
8 Seventy-nine percent of all jobs in energy  
9 generation are in clean energy. That's  
10 41,000 in solar, wind and energy efficiency  
11 of 52,000.  
12 So as we talked about the future  
13 being 100 percent clean energy, as we talked  
14 about Governor Murphy's vision of being 100  
15 percent renewable energy, we have to realize  
16 that the future is here and the future of  
17 clean energy and clean energy jobs, good,  
18 local union jobs, are in the solar, wind and  
19 energy efficiency areas.  
20 The water permits are deficient,  
21 they're incomplete, and we urge you to say  
22 no.  
23 Thank you.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
25 you.

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1 Speakers number 23, 24, and then I  
2 need 25 and 26 to also come up to the  
3 microphone. Thank you.  
4 So we'll just do the next two  
5 speakers. We'll do numbers 23, 24, and then  
6 we're going to take a break.  
7 MR. CROSS: My name is Barrington  
8 Cross, B-A-R-R-I-N-G-T-O-N C-R-O-S-S, and  
9 I'm a resident of Princeton Manor. And I  
10 must say, I seem to be the only chemist,  
11 former chemist, who's speaking of live  
12 chemistry. And so I'll talk mostly about  
13 the impact of the chemicals on water in the  
14 environment.  
15 I'm asking the New Jersey DEP to  
16 not grant the permit for the 206 compressor.  
17 It appears to me -- well, it is being placed  
18 or is supposed to be placed in forestry and  
19 wetlands and it is due west of Princeton  
20 Manor and southwest of Princeton Walk.  
21 Now, why is it a violation? It is  
22 a violation of the New Jersey Freshwater  
23 Wetlands Protection Act and the Clean Water  
24 Act. And in the Freshwater Act, as other  
25 people have said, placing a facility in a

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1 wet water area, wetlands, is the last thing  
2 that should happen. In fact, that -- and in  
3 fact that is happening. So this is a  
4 violation. And I would suggest that Transco  
5 goes back to the drawing board to find a  
6 more suitable site.  
7 Now, I want to talk about  
8 emissions. In normal running, there is a  
9 low level of emissions that are toxic, but  
10 not toxic enough to cause human suffering.  
11 However, when there is venting, the toxicity  
12 is high and, if we have rainfall, then the  
13 water will be contaminated by methane and  
14 other hydrocarbons.  
15 But the greatest issue to me is a  
16 catastrophic disaster and that would mean  
17 explosion and fire. Now, of course, Transco  
18 will say, well, that rarely happens. But  
19 Transco has never put such a compressor  
20 station right near a blasting site used by  
21 Trap Rock. And I lived in Rocky Hill, where  
22 houses shook after each blast and the houses  
23 were cracked.  
24 Now, what we have here is a  
25 compressor station and a compressor means

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1 high pressure and the likelihood of  
2 pressure, leak, fire, and goodness knows  
3 what toxic chemicals in the environment  
4 washed into water and into springs from the  
5 environment.  
6 And that's all I need to say. We  
7 need clean energy, not toxic chemicals.  
8 Thank you.  
9 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
10 sir.  
11 Speaker number 24. Spell your  
12 name.  
13 MS. CROSS: Patricia Cross.  
14 P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A, Cross, C-R-O-S-S, related  
15 to the previous speaker.  
16 My words will be short and I hope  
17 somewhat sweet. I'm not sure about the  
18 sweet part, though.  
19 Okay. I'm going to address just  
20 one little bit of this whole enormous  
21 subject that everybody else has dealt with  
22 so eloquently. So I'm going to do something  
23 a little bit different.  
24 This is the water problem. So the  
25 basin and compressor 206 has not been

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1 correctly designed to meet New Jersey's dam  
2 safety -- D-A-M safety -- regulations. A  
3 failure of meeting these regulations will  
4 result in the flooding of Carters Brook and  
5 Heathcote Brook and which will threaten all  
6 properties downstream including my  
7 community, Princeton Manor.  
8 Unfortunately, as you heard already  
9 this evening, the water table is already  
10 very high in our area due to minimal water  
11 absorption or percolation, so standing water  
12 is already a problem. We even heard one  
13 person say his house was disappearing into  
14 the water fairly soon. Thus, such  
15 additional flooding could enter our homes as  
16 it has or is about to do in some cases and  
17 already this problem is showing up twice  
18 from that.  
19 For that reason alone, plus all the  
20 other reasons already mentioned, I urge  
21 NJDEP to refuse Transco a permit to proceed  
22 with this project at this location.  
23 Thank you.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
25 All right. We're going to take a

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1 short break so the court reporter can set up  
2 in a better location so she can hear. So  
3 about five minutes.  
4 (Whereupon, a recess is taken.)  
5 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.  
6 We're going to open the hearing back up  
7 again. If you can take your seats and quiet  
8 down, I'd appreciate it.  
9 We have speakers number 25, 26, 27  
10 and 28.  
11 Can you please move forward towards  
12 the microphone? Thank you.  
13 Bob. Yes, sir. Spell your name  
14 for the record.  
15 MR. SHAPIRO: My name is Robert  
16 Shapiro. And, no, I'm not the lawyer. And  
17 I live in Princeton Manor with my wife,  
18 Sherry, who's here. And my property, after  
19 a rainfall there's always standing water, as  
20 many others have said here, and it doesn't  
21 go away for at least two days, sometimes  
22 longer.  
23 So I'm really worried that any,  
24 you know, water -- more water that comes  
25 from this site is going to make it much



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1 worse, and especially with poor  
2 management.  
3 I also wanted to say that I  
4 sometimes have trouble breathing. And my  
5 doctor did prescribe Flonase for me, so I'm  
6 on an inhaler. If the air quality gets  
7 worse, and it probably will at times from  
8 the blowoff, then it's probably going to  
9 exacerbate my problems.  
10 And I know that I'm not the one  
11 with the most serious problems in Princeton  
12 Manor. I know plenty of other people have  
13 even more serious problems because we are an  
14 older-age community. And we are not the  
15 only old-age community that's going to be  
16 affected in this area.  
17 I know that, for example, Stone  
18 Ridge in Montgomery is pretty close to the  
19 area as well. It's right off Rocky Hill,  
20 which I think someone referred to as their  
21 foundations were being cracked by the  
22 explosions. So they have not only older  
23 people with breathing problems, but I  
24 think they have even more serious problems  
25 there.

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1 And there are other old-age  
2 communities around. So the whole area has  
3 lots of residents that will be affected by  
4 this and we are sort of fragile in this  
5 respect.  
6 So I really hope that you will deny  
7 the permit on the basis of this and all the  
8 other things that the other people have  
9 eloquently spoke about.  
10 Thank you.  
11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
12 Number 26, Linda.  
13 MS. POWELL: Linda Powell,  
14 L-I-N-D-A P-O-W-E-L-L. I'm a Franklin  
15 resident.  
16 In three minutes I can only touch  
17 on some of the issues with the freshwater  
18 wetlands permit application for the  
19 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project, which  
20 are the application's not complete for  
21 review.  
22 The NJDEP issue deficiency letter  
23 is detailing missing information that needs  
24 to be provided in sufficient detail before  
25 the application is considered to be

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1 technically complete.  
2 The application does not comply  
3 with stormwater management rules. Both  
4 Compressor Station 206 and Madison Loop are  
5 considered to be major development under  
6 stormwater management rules. Thus,  
7 Freshwater Wetlands Permit can be issued  
8 until the entire NESE project complies with  
9 the stormwater management rules.  
10 The NESE project -- and I apologize  
11 if I'm repeating some things that other  
12 people have already said.  
13 The NESE project will have direct  
14 and indirect impacts on wetlands and  
15 transition areas both during construction  
16 and over the lifetime of the project if it  
17 is built.  
18 Constructing the Madison Loop and  
19 Compressor Station 206 would have indirect  
20 impacts on the public water supply,  
21 propagation and fish and wildlife,  
22 recreation and businesses. The integrity of  
23 the aquatic resources and degradation is at  
24 risk from potential discharges into the  
25 wetlands from construction, as well as leaks

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1 if NESE becomes operational.  
2 The overall NESE project is  
3 expected to impact a significant amount of  
4 wetlands in New Jersey, over 41 acres,  
5 including approximately 20 acres of forested  
6 wetlands.  
7 In addition, the NESE project will  
8 remove 3.35 acres of upland forest and the  
9 impact on the forested wetlands will be  
10 long term or permanent because these trees  
11 will take up to 50 years or longer to become  
12 reestablished and would not be allowed to  
13 become reestablished directly over the  
14 pipeline.  
15 Construction could reduce the  
16 capacity of the wetlands to buffer flood  
17 flow and control erosion. There was no  
18 factual determination by Williams/Transco  
19 that their erosion and sediment control plan  
20 would ensure that the ground or surface  
21 water would not be degraded.  
22 The need for the NESE project is  
23 not clear. New York's need for gas is not  
24 as great as the NESE plans deliver.  
25 The NJDEP should consider all

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1 information from New York about whether or  
 2 not there is a legitimate need for this  
 3 project that would compel consideration of  
 4 destruction of wetlands as well as the  
 5 long-term damage to the residents' safety,  
 6 health and residents and of workers and  
 7 visitors of New Jersey.

8 Also, under the Freshwater Wetlands  
 9 Protection Act rules, the NJDEP must address  
 10 whether the NESE project is in the public  
 11 interest. The NJDEP must consider the  
 12 relative extent of the public and private  
 13 need for the proposed regulated activity as  
 14 part of its public interest review.

15 The NESE project does not provide  
 16 for the safety or health of anyone in New  
 17 Jersey and it does not serve any existing  
 18 need of residents in New Jersey. There is  
 19 not a compelling need for it according to  
 20 the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act  
 21 rules. The NESE project does not preserve  
 22 our natural resources and is not in the  
 23 public interest.

24 These are some of the reasons why  
 25 we and I am asking you to deny the

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1 Freshwater Wetlands Permits for the proposed  
 2 NESE project.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 4 ma'am.

5 MS. POWELL: I just also wanted to  
 6 say one more thing about labor and about  
 7 labor union folks, which I support. I  
 8 really feel that we need no new fossil fuel  
 9 infrastructure in New Jersey, but they  
 10 can -- Williams/Transco can spend some of  
 11 their billions of dollars of profit on  
 12 upgrading the old fossil fuel  
 13 infrastructure which was put in in the '50s  
 14 and the '60s.

15 Thank you.

16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 17 ma'am.

18 So we have speaker 28, 29, 30, 31.  
 19 If you can all come to the microphones.

20 Speaker number 28.

21 MR. POWER: Twenty-seven.

22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Twenty-seven,  
 23 I'm sorry.

24 MR. POWER: Hello. My name is Ed  
 25 Power, P-O-W-E-R. I'm not going to repeat

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1 all of the -- what all of the people before  
 2 me spoke about as far as why this proposed  
 3 construction is unsafe, unhealthy, and  
 4 illegal, because a lot of people said that a  
 5 lot better than I can.

6 But I'm going to -- we're locking  
 7 in a technology that's going to be with us  
 8 for another 40 years in a time when we  
 9 should be looking at other greener  
 10 technologies. We're basically locking  
 11 ourselves into a situation. There are those  
 12 who feel that methane is a clean gas. It's  
 13 86 to 200 times worse than CO2, which is not  
 14 clean at all.

15 However, there are those who -- I  
 16 understand that there may be some jobs, but  
 17 if you look at the big picture, the solar  
 18 installation, the clean energies have so  
 19 many more jobs than this temporary amount of  
 20 work. It doesn't take many people to  
 21 monitor a pipeline.

22 And there's no real benefit to New  
 23 Jersey from this. This is going right  
 24 through. And thanks for letting me take the  
 25 time.

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1 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 2 sir.

3 Speaker number 28.

4 MR. BLAIR: Hi, Peter Blair,  
 5 B-L-A-I-R. I'm an attorney for Clean Ocean  
 6 Action.

7 First, Clean Ocean Action echoes  
 8 the numerous other comments which have  
 9 described the devastating and permanent  
 10 impacts that this proposed pipeline and  
 11 the compressor station will have on both  
 12 both the economics of the state and the  
 13 critical wetlands which we're here to  
 14 discuss.

15 Clean Ocean Action urges the NJDEP  
 16 to deny this permit because the project has  
 17 no benefit to the state, is unnecessary, and  
 18 is not in the public interest. There is  
 19 absolutely no benefit to this proposed  
 20 project for the State of New Jersey or its  
 21 residents.

22 The project will only provide  
 23 natural gas to New York City. Therefore,  
 24 granting this permit will allow the  
 25 applicant to degrade air quality, destroy

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1 and alter ecologically important wetlands  
2 and degrade miles of sea floor, thereby  
3 harming numerous endangered species and  
4 unearthing our legacy of toxic dumping that  
5 we have done in the past.  
6 Moreover this project is completely  
7 unnecessary, which has been stated before.  
8 The statement of purpose outlined in the  
9 draft EIS done by FERC indicates that New  
10 York will receive an expanded delivery of  
11 gas. This is untrue. Transco's lower New  
12 York Bay lateral is the end of a system  
13 designed to provide 15 million dekatherms of  
14 natural gas per day, where the lateral  
15 itself can only have a capacity of 625,000  
16 dekatherms per day.  
17 This project does nothing to expand  
18 that capacity and will, therefore, not  
19 increase capacity to New York. It seems  
20 wholly unnecessary to build a new pipeline  
21 when the capacity of the lateral serving New  
22 York is not being expanded first. The cart  
23 is clearly before the horse.  
24 One possible explanation for  
25 increasing this pipeline capacity without

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1 the capacity of the lateral is to provide a  
2 natural gas export facility. Rather than  
3 service New York customers, the Raritan Loop  
4 would serve to facilitate New York -- not  
5 facilitate New York with natural resources,  
6 but to give them to the highest bidder  
7 abroad. The Raritan Loop is currently  
8 terminating at a point closest to the  
9 Atlantic Ocean, further suggesting that the  
10 intention is for offshore LNG exports.  
11 Finally, granting this permit is  
12 clearly against the public interest.  
13 Climate change represents the most  
14 significant global crisis we face, a crisis  
15 that will require wetlands to mitigate the  
16 damages.  
17 The effects of climate change have  
18 been felt in this state and will continue to  
19 be felt unless we mitigate our fossil fuel  
20 uses. Granting this permit would see the  
21 State allow the continued combustion of  
22 dirty fossil fuels and, therefore, see the  
23 state become a hypocrite.  
24 This legislature, the governor and  
25 this agency have been working to transition

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1 New Jersey to 100 percent renewable energy  
2 by 2050, to cut greenhouse gas emissions,  
3 rejoin RENJ and promote renewable energy.  
4 Allowing the combustion of fossil  
5 fuels elsewhere not only undermines this  
6 work, but puts millions of New Jersey  
7 residents at risk for increased flooding,  
8 storm damages and displacement.  
9 For these reasons, and for many  
10 others that you will receive in my written  
11 comments, Clean Ocean Action calls on you to  
12 deny this permit and end this  
13 environmentally irresponsible project.  
14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
15 (Applause from audience).  
16 THE HEARING OFFICER: So we have  
17 speakers 29, 30, 31 and 32, please come up  
18 to the microphone.  
19 And speaker 29, I have a Brian Lee  
20 on here. Brian Lee?  
21 Okay. Speaker number 30, Aniko.  
22 Thank you.  
23 MS. SOMOGYI: Hello. My name is an  
24 Aniko Somogyi, A-N-I-K-O S-O-M-O-G-Y-I.  
25 I am the owner of Theresa's Farm, a

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1 20-acre farm, that will border the  
2 compressor station site. My main concern is  
3 the catastrophic failure of a Class I pipe  
4 that was laid in 1960. This pipe has been  
5 stressed by quarry blasting for decades.  
6 Williams Corporation could not choose a  
7 more unsafe site than this compressor  
8 station.  
9 Two pipes run through the middle of  
10 my farm, very close to the compressor  
11 station. It is terrifying to me. I have  
12 lost much sleep. I've been depressed and  
13 very anxious because if those pipes blow, my  
14 farmhouse is gone. There will be a crater  
15 that will be about at least 500 feet in  
16 diameter. And it is just unbelievable to  
17 me that Williams Corporation will  
18 endanger my farm, my community for cost  
19 savings.  
20 Twenty-five years ago they informed  
21 my mother, when she was still alive, that  
22 they were going to put in a third pipe for  
23 increased capacity. Certainly that would be  
24 a far more reasonable prospect for our  
25 community because a pipe doesn't pollute. A

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1 new pipe will not explode. And -- excuse  
2 me, I'm not feeling very well today. It is  
3 just more expensive to lay a third pipe.  
4 The compressor station is a cheap  
5 alternative to a third pipe.  
6 Williams Corporation did, in its  
7 initial resource report, include a pipeline  
8 alternative instead of the compressor  
9 station simply to lay the third pipe as they  
10 had originally intended. So there is no  
11 reason for this compressor station. It is  
12 not necessary. It's only a dangerous  
13 cost-saving measure for Williams  
14 Corporation.  
15 Thank you.  
16 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
17 Can we also have speaker 33 and 34  
18 come forward?  
19 Can we have speaker number 31?  
20 MS. JACOBS: Hello. My name is  
21 Avelene, A-V-E-L-E-N-E, Jacobs, J-A-C-O-B-S,  
22 resident of Princeton Manor.  
23 We are a united front tonight and  
24 we come to you as a united group to implore  
25 that you consider all the aforementioned

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1 concerns.  
2 Water is essential to life. I want  
3 everyone to visualize a boulder being laid  
4 quietly into a pond and where that water  
5 displaces is a small, tiny picture compared  
6 to the Compressor Station 206. May be the  
7 size of two football fields, may be the size  
8 of the space shuttle, laid quietly into a  
9 body of flat water. Imagine the  
10 displacement. Imagine it going into full  
11 function. Imagine the spew of contaminants  
12 that would be rolling down into the  
13 waterways that affect all of us. This is  
14 our concern. We've mentioned all the  
15 other concerns, but water is today's  
16 topic.  
17 Transco has failed to identify and  
18 analyze the subsurface geology. Linda has  
19 mentioned that. Plants cannot grow in the  
20 acidic soil that will become affected and  
21 this complicates restoration efforts and  
22 slope stability. Transco's failure to even  
23 mention these acidic-producing clays is a  
24 major oversight.  
25 NESE doesn't bring any energy

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1 supplies to New Jersey. We have been  
2 schooled on that and we unite in our concern  
3 about that.  
4 So even if New York achieves the  
5 unlikely goal of converting all those  
6 residential and commercial buildings from  
7 oil to natural gas, it is unlikely. We hope  
8 that the NJDEP, in your sound judgment,  
9 remains committed to protecting New Jersey's  
10 forest lands and requires Transco to perform  
11 a more robust alternatives analysis. But  
12 guess what? If they don't, you do not  
13 approve.  
14 We further hope that the NJDEP  
15 remembers all citizens in New Jersey are  
16 entitled to live together in good health,  
17 protected from potential carcinogens that  
18 should otherwise not be introduced into  
19 our environment.  
20 We respectfully submit this with  
21 great concern. Thank you.  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
23 Speaker 32.  
24 MR. TITTEL: Somebody picked up my  
25 card. I signed in as 32. I left it outside

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1 on my thing and somebody picked it up.  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Jeff Tittel  
3 is speaker number 32.  
4 MR. TITTEL: Thank you.  
5 Jeff Tittel, T-I-T-T-E-L, director,  
6 New Jersey Sierra Club.  
7 I'm here today representing the  
8 Sierra Club, not only here in New Jersey and  
9 our five hundred members in the areas around  
10 the state, but also nationally our almost  
11 three million members and supporter.  
12 But from a personal level, I was  
13 there in 1998 when Governor Tom Kean  
14 signed the first executive order on  
15 freshwater wetlands and the Freshwater  
16 Wetlands Act. And when Governor Kean signed  
17 it, he was very clear that he said that he  
18 was signing this legislation and this first  
19 executive order because wetlands are in the  
20 public trust and belong to the people. And  
21 that the government, meaning the DEP, is a  
22 caretaker of that trust, but they belong to  
23 the people.  
24 He went on to say that wetlands are  
25 critical for water supply, for filtering

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1 water. They're a natural sponge and water  
2 filter. And that's why he signed the  
3 legislation.  
4 And here we are, so many years  
5 later, we're looking at -- we look at this  
6 application and we see so many deficiencies  
7 and so many areas of concern that were not  
8 properly addressed when you're dealing with  
9 over 41 acres of wetland-filled impacts,  
10 when you're dealing with cutting through  
11 priority wetlands.  
12 But, more importantly, when you  
13 look at the site where they want to develop  
14 the compressor station, we do not believe  
15 there is any way, shape or form that they  
16 can meet the surface water quality standards  
17 for the runoff from that site. It is an  
18 industrial use. There will be hydrocarbons  
19 and silt, there will be even chromium, all  
20 kinds of metals, oil, lubricants and  
21 everything else. And filling in those  
22 wetlands, since you have a high groundwater  
23 in that area, will lead to more water  
24 pollution as well.  
25 You know, the reason I wanted to

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1 throw in chromium is because it was a  
2 compressor station in Hinkley, California  
3 that led to the contamination of those  
4 wells. And for those -- it's the movie Erin  
5 Brockovich.  
6 The point is that DEP needs to do  
7 their job. This project has been  
8 compartmentalized. It's been -- we're not  
9 looking at secondary and cumulative  
10 impacts. We're not looking at the other  
11 projects that this is connecting with, not  
12 only into New York and impact to the bay,  
13 but Rivervale South, the Lady Loop, the  
14 Garden State expansion, all the other  
15 transfer projects.  
16 They're really all part of one  
17 system and they all have the same purpose,  
18 which is to bring gas either to New York or  
19 offshore. We're also not looking at the  
20 secondary impacts because -- for the new  
21 proposed CPV power plant in Woodbridge, as  
22 well as the Sewaren 7 plant. And we're  
23 going to get pollution and water pollution  
24 from them as well.  
25 But when you look at this overall,

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1 you're the Department of Environmental  
2 Protection, not the Department of Excessive  
3 Pipelines. Do your job. Go through this  
4 thoroughly.  
5 Because one of the things we have  
6 found, after these compressor stations are  
7 built, there are a lot of violations. After  
8 these pipelines are built, there are a lot  
9 of violations. So what they say going in  
10 isn't the same once they get built.  
11 I'll take you up to Ringwood and  
12 West Milford and you can look at the  
13 Kinder-Morgan line and all the runoff that  
14 came from that. We can take you to Roseland  
15 and show you the pollution from that.  
16 And I just want to end with one  
17 point, that there should be another hearing.  
18 Doing it the night before the election and  
19 doing in the way that it's been done, most  
20 of the people who signed up left. And  
21 that's a shame because they have a right to  
22 speak and we should have another hearing.  
23 Thank you very much.  
24 (Applause from audience)  
25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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1 Excuse me. Excuse me.  
2 Jeff, you must have missed it in  
3 the beginning. We will be holding another  
4 hearing. This is just the first hearing in  
5 the project. It's just not scheduled yet.  
6 Number 33, 34 and 35 and 36, can  
7 you move forward?  
8 And I take it you're Karen?  
9 MS. PAFFENDORF: I am. Hello. I'm  
10 Karen Paffendorf. That's K-A-R-E-N  
11 P-A-F-F-E-N-D-O-R-F. I'm a resident in  
12 Princeton Manor, Kendall Park, South  
13 Brunswick, New Jersey.  
14 I'm concerned about many things  
15 that people have already mentioned:  
16 pollution, air, water, noise, both the base  
17 levels and the blowoff levels.  
18 I am also very concerned about the  
19 possibility of a tragedy, of a fire that  
20 burns until the gas is gone and it doesn't  
21 burn anymore. In the back of my mind is  
22 some of the stuff after Sandy and some of  
23 the stuff south of San Francisco in one of  
24 the big fires. And people were made  
25 homeless, if not killed, and it took a long

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1 time for them to be forced to live up to  
2 their responsibility and take care of these  
3 people.  
4 But the opportunity to speak  
5 tonight is to address the water. And so I'd  
6 like to take this time and talk to you about  
7 some of my early background, about land and  
8 water and more recent decisions we face that  
9 brought me to Princeton Manor.  
10 So I grew up in Middlesex County.  
11 We had a nice wooded lot that backed onto  
12 Walt Park. We had native orchids. We had  
13 all sorts of plants and animals, amphibians,  
14 birds, mammals of all different sizes and  
15 shapes.  
16 I also spent a lot of time on  
17 Barnegat Bay sailing, fishing, swimming,  
18 crabbing, clamming. And, likewise, I swam  
19 in the ocean and stuff and I'm still a  
20 long-distance swimmer. So whatever the  
21 fresh water does here, it drains there. It  
22 all ties in and affects it.  
23 I like the shore. I'm concerned  
24 about long-term flooding due to climate.  
25 This house is approximately 50 feet above

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1 sea level. I knew it was surrounded by  
2 wetlands, but I chose to buy a house that  
3 was surrounded by wetlands to enjoy the  
4 wildlife around me and the fact that they  
5 couldn't build next to my house.  
6 I had thought there was a drainage  
7 plan in place to deal with our community.  
8 There is constantly running water just  
9 behind my property and along the one side  
10 going under -- going through a culvert under  
11 the street I live on, which dumps the water  
12 where he's complaining about it.  
13 I am wearing a shirt here tonight  
14 saying that I participated in trying to  
15 clean up for Earth Day. I am a person that  
16 plants dune grass to try and keep the  
17 barrier islands from eroding. I do what I  
18 can as an individual, but I need the DEP to  
19 step up and help stop this from coming in  
20 and polluting our waters and causing water  
21 levels to rise around my home, where I have  
22 chosen to be in the long term in this  
23 retirement community.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
25 MS. PAFFENDORF: Thank you very

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1 much for your time.  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
3 Speaker number 44.  
4 MS. CHAKRAVARTI: Hi. My name is  
5 Rupali Chakravarti, R-U-P-A-L-I, my first  
6 name, and C-H-A-K-R-A-V-A-R-T-I. And I  
7 live at 100 Inverness Drive in Princeton  
8 Manor.  
9 I am concerned about many things,  
10 like my neighbors have said. I'm concerned  
11 that Williams/Transco did not avoid the  
12 wetlands and it had a list of 41 sites, but  
13 they only chose the ones that were in the  
14 wetlands. They did an incomplete analysis  
15 of the alternative sites and they only  
16 considered the cost benefits to be gained  
17 from using the Trap Rock site that they had  
18 already purchased.  
19 Have they minimized? No. The NESE  
20 project will negatively impact a lot of  
21 wetlands. And by Transco's own estimate,  
22 recovery of forested wetlands can take over  
23 30 years.  
24 So did they mitigate it? I don't  
25 think so. We foresee that in this area with

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1 the high water table, the flooding would  
2 increase significantly, especially during  
3 heavy rain and storms that are becoming more  
4 frequent. Our backyard drainage is poor, so  
5 additional water could damage the homes in  
6 my community significantly.  
7 Transco's stormwater management  
8 plan is not sound even though they claim it  
9 is. Please ask them ask them to revise it  
10 and provide factual data supporting their  
11 case.  
12 Please consider, also, whether  
13 there is a legitimate need for the  
14 Compressor 206 in view of the significant  
15 risk to the wetlands and the communities.  
16 As people have mentioned, maybe New  
17 York does not need all this gas.  
18 Labor speakers have talked about  
19 the improvements in New Jersey's  
20 infrastructure, but I have different  
21 worries. Because I am worried that the  
22 existing pipelines in our area, which will  
23 carry the increased gas loads, are 50 to 60  
24 years old and one of them passes very near  
25 my house.

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1 A higher velocity in these  
2 pipelines can accelerate corrosion and  
3 result in cracks that would let the gas  
4 escape and cause a fire or explosion,  
5 similar to those near Boston.  
6 Today's USA analysis of federal  
7 data shows that 264 people have died and  
8 more than 1600 injured in natural gas leaks,  
9 fires and explosions since 1990.  
10 Please seriously consider the risks  
11 of adding a compressor in this densely  
12 populated area of New Jersey with over 1,300  
13 people plus square mile.  
14 I think it is imperative that  
15 Transco be required to declare and execute a  
16 comprehensive plan for checking the  
17 thickness of pipes and all pipe welds using  
18 the latest and most reliable techniques.  
19 The safety of many hundreds of Middlesex  
20 residents depends on it.  
21 Thank you.  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
23 ma'am.  
24 Speakers 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 can  
25 you come forward.

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1 Speaker number 35. Sue?  
2 MS. STEIN: I'm Sue Stein,  
3 S-T-E-I-N. I live in Princeton Manor in  
4 South Brunswick as well.  
5 I am not a geologist. I am a nurse  
6 and a thinking individual. I oppose the  
7 NESE project for many reasons. One, it  
8 impacts 41 acres of forested woodlands which  
9 will disturb the environment for many years  
10 to come.  
11 Two, New Jersey will not benefit  
12 from this project aside from a few  
13 negligible jobs.  
14 Three, New York has a current goal  
15 of a reduction in greenhouse gasses by 80  
16 percent by 2050. The NESE project will send  
17 twice as much gas to New York than it needs  
18 or wants.  
19 Four, Transco has not demonstrated  
20 that the least environmentally damaging  
21 practical alternative has been met.  
22 Five, the turbines will exceed the  
23 thresholds for seven hazardous air  
24 pollutants.  
25 Six, Transco wants us to trust them

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1 while they disregard the Clean Water Act.  
2 Seven, Transco failed to analyze  
3 the subsurface geology of the area and will  
4 send pipes through acid-producing clay.  
5 Eight, Transco has not met the  
6 stormwater management rules of New Jersey  
7 and even received a letter from NJDEP on  
8 10/27/18 to that effect.  
9 Nine, the site does not comply with  
10 dam safety requirements.  
11 Ten, Transco has no data for  
12 methane emissions.  
13 Eleven, since it will be  
14 unoccupied 80 percent of the time, the fire  
15 extinguishers they will be providing will be  
16 of no use if a fire breaks out.  
17 Twelve, Transco needs to be  
18 required to be in full compliance with all  
19 of New Jersey rules and regulations.  
20 Thirteen, we are requesting an  
21 analysis of alternative sites, or deny the  
22 permit altogether.  
23 Respectfully submitted.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
25 Speaker number 36.

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1 MS. SUBRAMONI: Hello. My name is  
2 Jaya Subramoni, J-A-Y-A S-U-B-R-A-M-O-N-I.  
3 I live in the beautiful Princeton  
4 Manor community, which is beautifully tucked  
5 in, away from the busy Route 27. And it's  
6 an absolutely adorable community.  
7 Now we are getting hit with this  
8 new project coming, the NESE project.  
9 Transco has selected a site which will  
10 negatively impact all the 41 acres of  
11 wetlands, including 20 acres of forest  
12 wetlands. It also will remove 35 acres of  
13 upland forest. The compressor site will  
14 result in a permanent loss of 2.64 acres of  
15 forested wetland.  
16 And now the other issue. Transco,  
17 they -- Transco has not properly designed  
18 the basin of the Compressor 206 to satisfy  
19 the requirements of New Jersey's dam safety  
20 regulations. That means, you know, this can  
21 lead to flooding in the surrounding areas  
22 and definitely, including my community,  
23 flooding can be pretty bad. To begin with,  
24 the water table in this place is really very  
25 high. And so we are very worried about the

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1 additional flooding which could destroy the  
 2 homes.  
 3 And the other issue was Transco has  
 4 failed to identify and analyze the  
 5 subsurface geology which has acid-producing  
 6 clay. Earth-moving activities like  
 7 construction can expose the sulfite minerals  
 8 in the clay to air and sulfuric acid is  
 9 produced. And Transco's failure to even  
 10 mention acid-producing clay is a major  
 11 oversight that undermines the analysis of  
 12 environmental impacts.  
 13 So because of all these reasons,  
 14 with the major health issues and everything,  
 15 I really strongly want to protest the NESE  
 16 project.  
 17 Thank you.  
 18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 19 Speaker number 37. Can you say  
 20 your name and spell it?  
 21 MS. WIJESINGHE: Ellen Wijesinghe.  
 22 That's W-I-J-E-S-I-N-G-H-E. First name  
 23 Ellen, E-L-L-E-N.  
 24 My main concern about the  
 25 construction of this compressor station and

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1 the Northeast Supply Enhancement Pipeline is  
 2 the danger of the carcinogenic toxins both  
 3 in the air air and in the water.  
 4 Aside from a new compressor  
 5 station, hearing about Transco's already  
 6 existing aging pipeline which releases  
 7 toxins through pipeline connections through  
 8 our neighborhoods is disturbing enough. We  
 9 don't need any new construction adding to  
 10 the danger.  
 11 I live in Princeton Manor and my  
 12 son lives behind my house, closer to the  
 13 proposed compressor station. Even when it  
 14 is not raining, my son's property has  
 15 permanent pools of muddy water. I wouldn't  
 16 want that water level to rise due to  
 17 stormwater runoff and added toxins  
 18 collecting there in addition to the muddy  
 19 water.  
 20 My grandsons and their friends  
 21 play in that yard. When it rains, there is  
 22 a small river rushing between my son's  
 23 house and mine. I would not want the  
 24 river to be larger or to be a conduit for  
 25 toxins.

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1 Princeton Manor management often  
 2 apologizes about having to postpone our  
 3 lawn-mowing because our house properties are  
 4 surrounded by water that has made the ground  
 5 too wet. Merely too wet is better than  
 6 toxic and too wet.  
 7 Please deny the permit for Transco  
 8 to engage in activity which will disturb the  
 9 health and lives of the people, animals and  
 10 vegetation wherever Transco may build this  
 11 unneeded compressor station and pipeline  
 12 extension.  
 13 Thank you.  
 14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 15 Speaker number -- could I have  
 16 speakers 40, 41, 42 come up to the podium?  
 17 Speaker number 38.  
 18 MR. TATE: Yes. Robert Tate,  
 19 R-O-B-E-R-T T-A-T-E.  
 20 Before I start, I will indicate  
 21 that I've turned in a copy of the notes  
 22 because I've shortened them about 50 percent  
 23 due to the time.  
 24 Okay. The conclusion, which I will  
 25 present also at the end, is that as -- let

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1 me help see this a little better.  
 2 As will be shown by the  
 3 presentation of the data provided by the  
 4 applicant and from -- by laboratories, the  
 5 scientific analysis in many cases is  
 6 scientifically incomplete and inadequate.  
 7 The basis for this involves many years at  
 8 Rutgers University. I say that because  
 9 somebody here mentioned they were Princeton.  
 10 Rutgers University.  
 11 The evaluation of the impact of  
 12 subsurface geology, the applicant's term for  
 13 the topic, indicates that the site contains  
 14 sulfidic materials, sulfidic metals. Some  
 15 reference was made to the chemical oxidation  
 16 of the sulfites to sulfates, sulfuric acid  
 17 primarily, but the primary source of  
 18 sulfuric acid in many, if not most, soils is  
 19 biological oxidation of the sulfite, which  
 20 occurs any time that the pyrite-containing  
 21 soils are exposed to oxygen.  
 22 The primary thought process  
 23 associated with this sulfur oxidation by  
 24 most people is the acid-mined drainage that  
 25 we, a few years ago, read a lot about. So



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1 it can be quite spectacular.  
2 In the last environmental impact  
3 statement, sulfite can result in a decline  
4 in the quality of soil and the existing  
5 plant community dies. And should the  
6 appropriate ecosystem properties occur in  
7 this soil site, some acid-loving plants may  
8 develop, but the outcome is not that -- that  
9 outcome is not likely to occur.  
10 Therefore, the most common  
11 situation is that the highly degraded soil  
12 develops. In the extreme case, the water --  
13 soiled water takes on an okra color of the  
14 isles and the water and soil become highly  
15 acidic. The diagnosis of the level of  
16 damage requires ground-proofing essentially  
17 daily.  
18 There was a response from the  
19 applicant not too long ago that they felt  
20 one year flyovers would provide adequate  
21 analysis.  
22 Note that another potential outcome  
23 of soil contaminate from the managerial  
24 viewpoint is that should a green system --  
25 i.e., green grass on the site -- be desired,

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1 the site would have to be continuously  
2 managed to keep the pH in the acceptable  
3 range. This may require daily assessment of  
4 the soil pH. This would require more  
5 assessment than is allowed by someone -- by  
6 the sometime-used assessments of the annual  
7 flyovers.  
8 The bottom line is that the  
9 applicants have glossed over a major problem  
10 involving the quality of the soil and water  
11 by failure to analyze and present the data  
12 that must be in the application.  
13 It must be noted that the plant  
14 communities, both forest and wetlands, are  
15 highly susceptible to such contamination.  
16 Once the plant community is destroyed, it  
17 could take many decades for the ecosystem to  
18 recover, if it ever does.  
19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
20 you.  
21 MR. TATE: Similar problems are  
22 associated with the organic contaminants.  
23 They create problems both in aerobic and  
24 anaerobic situations.  
25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank

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1 you, sir.  
2 Can you hand in your --  
3 MR. TATE: I handed in my complete  
4 copies.  
5 THE HEARING OFFICER: We will put  
6 them as part of the public comments  
7 received, sir, in its entirety.  
8 Speaker number 39.  
9 MR. RAMADAN: Good evening. My  
10 name is Abdel Ramadan. A-B-D-E-L. Laft  
11 name Ramadan, R-A-M-A-D-A-N. My wife is  
12 Dr. Soagir Ramadan. S-O-A-G-I-R. The same  
13 last name. I have a BS in chemistry and  
14 geology. As we all know, the water table in  
15 the area is very high. Since we are going  
16 to accommodate more water, because the water  
17 is very high as we know. So as a chemist  
18 for over 50 years, any kind of emission or  
19 leak will cause tremendous contamination  
20 which will have its impact on the residents  
21 of Princeton Manor, as all the area  
22 surrounding it.  
23 I'm here to oppose the construction  
24 of that project. And in the meantime I'm  
25 asking you kindly to reject the whole

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1 project and to stop it.  
2 Thank you and have a nice evening.  
3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
4 Speaker number 40. Steve?  
5 MR. SCHULMAN: Yeah.  
6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Spell your  
7 name.  
8 MR. SCHULMAN: Steve Schulman,  
9 S-C-H-U-L-M-A-N.  
10 Okay. My wife and I live in  
11 Princeton Manor. And what attracted us to  
12 Princeton Manor was the fact that it was  
13 built on the periphery of a beautiful old  
14 woodland that was appropriately called  
15 Kendall Park. So whereas other people go to  
16 an area called Kendall Park, we live right  
17 in Kendall Park.  
18 The wetland is no doubt due to the  
19 abundance of water that flows under the  
20 ground surface. Two of the reasons for this  
21 quantity of water is usually attributed to  
22 two well-known water sources: One of them  
23 being the Heathcote Brook and the other,  
24 Carter Brook.  
25 We have always seen these brooks as

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1 a blessing and yet a blight with each  
2 passing year. This blessing is rapidly  
3 turning into a curse.  
4 What is it that they say about too  
5 much of a good thing? The water table in  
6 this area has been steadily rising. It has  
7 risen so much that water remains visible on  
8 the surface for extended periods of time.  
9 There are weeks when we can't walk on our  
10 own property and our grass can't always be  
11 cut because even the lightest lawn-mowing  
12 equipment is too heavy and it destroys the  
13 muddy turf.  
14 And lately we've been noticing that  
15 permanent wall structures are visually and  
16 measurably shifting and sinking into the  
17 ground and this phenomenon seems to be  
18 accelerating.  
19 The building of the Transco  
20 compressor station exacerbates the water  
21 problem for us. Given the size of the  
22 compressor station footprint, do you know  
23 that the compressor station footprint is  
24 double the size of Yankee Stadium and that  
25 the smokestacks are planned to be 50 feet

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1 high?  
2 It will be discharging sufficient  
3 water to our development into a sodden mess.  
4 There's already more water rising to the  
5 surface than we can handle.  
6 The compressor station will be  
7 adding considerably more water to this, and  
8 yet this would be a different kind of water.  
9 Whereas the water that is currently there is  
10 natural, this new water would be industrial  
11 with all the pollutants coming to this kind  
12 of water.  
13 Together, these very different  
14 waters would flow into the Millstone River  
15 and, by doing that, into our aquifer. And  
16 both of these supply the drinking water to a  
17 large section of central New Jersey.  
18 Unfortunately, there's yet another  
19 evil actor to consider. It is called  
20 Higgins Farm. Higgins Farm is a Superfund  
21 site that abuts the Transco proposed site on  
22 the north. It is common knowledge that the  
23 cleanup of this site was not successful and  
24 to this day it is spewing dangerous  
25 chemicals.

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1 By disturbing the ground --  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: You need to  
3 wrap it up.  
4 MR. SCHULMAN: Last sentence.  
5 By disturbing the ground with  
6 unnecessary construction in combination with  
7 groundwater in this area naturally moving  
8 south, we feel that this will increase  
9 dramatically the quantity of poisons that  
10 are now leaching into the drinking waters of  
11 central New Jersey.  
12 And to this end we ask you to  
13 reject the permit that they're looking for.  
14 Thank you.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
16 Speaker number 43 and 44, please  
17 make sure you come forward.  
18 Speaker number 41.  
19 MS. SHERMAN: Yes. Good evening.  
20 My name is Rozalyn, R-O-Z-A-L-Y-N, Sherman,  
21 S-H-E-R-M-A-N.  
22 As a resident of Franklin Township  
23 and a former councilwoman, I'm here to fight  
24 for the safety of my community, for the  
25 health of our children, and a disruption to

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1 the quality of life that this compressor  
2 station brings to Franklin Township. The  
3 benefits to Franklin are minimal in  
4 comparison to the potential dangers of this  
5 compressor station installation.  
6 Below are just a few of the reasons  
7 why we ask you to reject the Freshwater  
8 Wetlands Permit.  
9 Health issues. You've heard many  
10 of these before, but it can't be said often  
11 enough. Compressor stations release toxic  
12 chemicals known to cause cancer, childhood  
13 leukemia, birth defects, developmental  
14 delays, immunological disorders, increased  
15 risk of heart attacks, which are a few of  
16 the horrors that are awaiting Franklin  
17 residents and our neighbors.  
18 Fires and explosions are real  
19 threats since Trap Rock will be blasting  
20 with dynamite until 2040. Should there be a  
21 fire, our local responders are not equipped  
22 to address any major disaster.  
23 I'm sure you've heard of the 2013  
24 fire at the Branchburg Compressor Station.  
25 No one can ever say never, never will that

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1 happen here.  
2 Pipelines and corrosion of  
3 pipelines. It is exacerbated due to the  
4 increased speed and heat levels of the gas  
5 that's going through the pipes which can  
6 lead to explosions. Aging pipelines are  
7 particularly vulnerable. The recent  
8 explosion in Massachusetts where many homes  
9 were destroyed is a deeply concerning  
10 reminder of what can happen when pipelines  
11 explode.  
12 It is unfortunate that the  
13 potential harm and concerns of the  
14 residents most affected by projects such as  
15 this are viewed differently by New Jersey  
16 and New York. New York will somehow allow  
17 them to reject Transco's water quality  
18 permit.  
19 New York is fighting against this  
20 pipeline. I sincerely hope that residents  
21 of New Jersey will be given the same  
22 protections.  
23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
24 Speaker number 42, Donald.  
25 MR. HOFFLER: Good evening. My

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1 name is Donald Hoffler, H-O-F-F-L-E-R. I'm  
2 a resident with my wife in Princeton Manor,  
3 Kendall Park.  
4 I'm mainly here today to ask you to  
5 deny the permit for the NESE compressor  
6 station. I've been reading, studying, and  
7 attending many meetings. I've learned a lot  
8 about this and all of the deficiencies that  
9 have been discovered, many of which I have  
10 in my report here. However, they have all  
11 been covered by someone before me. So very  
12 well, in the interests of time, I don't  
13 think I need to repeat them.  
14 But there is one major point I'd  
15 like to make tonight. We really need to  
16 keep the big environmental picture in mind  
17 regarding what is causing global warming,  
18 climate change, rising oceans, gigantic  
19 storms. There's a reason for that and it's  
20 something that we're going to have to deal  
21 with.  
22 I believe that the time has come  
23 for all of us to realize that we can't  
24 continue to ignore the effects of this. We  
25 are literally destroying Mother Earth. It's

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1 all we have. And I think we have to change  
2 what we are doing now, not next week, next  
3 month, next year. Now. We need to get the  
4 word to our political leaders.  
5 I know Governor Murphy has made it  
6 part of his campaign promises to work on  
7 renewable energies to help the state have  
8 self-reliance on gas and coal. If we delay  
9 some kind of corrective action too long, we  
10 do it at our own peril. We can't forget  
11 this now, for our children and all the  
12 generations to follow.  
13 Recently our United Nations study  
14 reported that we need to take corrective  
15 action as soon as possible. I believe that  
16 the compressor station does not move us in  
17 the direction of protecting our environment,  
18 which we need so badly.  
19 It threatens our local wetlands,  
20 which are downstream from the station. It  
21 threatens our woodlands with possible  
22 explosion and fire events. And it threatens  
23 our very community with destruction through  
24 fire and air quality issues. Witness the  
25 forest fires in California. We couldn't get

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1 away from it.  
2 What to do? We need to gradually  
3 wean our country off of polluting fossil  
4 fuels like gas and coal. We need to devote  
5 more efforts and money into renewable energy  
6 sources that do not damage our planet. The  
7 NESE station is a move backward towards  
8 resolving our pollution efforts.  
9 In the interests of time, I will  
10 also skip a couple other things that have  
11 been mentioned, but I thank you for  
12 conducting this hearing and allowing us to  
13 speak before you.  
14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
15 And you can always mail in any other  
16 comments or leave what you have written  
17 there at the front.  
18 MR. HOFFLER: I'll give them to  
19 registration at the desk.  
20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Absolutely,  
21 sir.  
22 Speaker number 43.  
23 MR. PRASA: Good evening. My name  
24 is Madu, M-A-D-U, Prasa, P-R-A-S-A.  
25 I'm here this eveing to ask you,

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1 New Jersey DEP, to please deny the  
2 Freshwater Wetlands Permit for Transco's  
3 NESE property. If permitted to proceed,  
4 this project will cause significant health,  
5 safety and environmental harm to the  
6 surrounding communities.  
7 In the interests of time, I will  
8 cut short the list of all the health and  
9 safety and environmental concerns that I  
10 have that I wanted to discuss, because most  
11 of the speakers before me have already  
12 elaborated on that.  
13 But I would like to make a point,  
14 and that is that I'm dearly concerned about  
15 the environment and the air quality because  
16 I am an allergy sufferer and that is  
17 something that is weighing very heavily on  
18 my mind.  
19 On a personal note, similar to one  
20 of the leaders who spoke earlier, I'm a  
21 father and a grandfather. And I moved here  
22 from Texas. And some question my sanity as  
23 to why I am doing that, moving from a warmer  
24 climate to New Jersey, but for the love of  
25 my family and to support them, we moved

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1 here.  
2 And we chose Princeton Manor  
3 because it's a pristine and a very friendly  
4 community. And our dream is to stay here  
5 through the very end of our golden years.  
6 But it seems like that that dream  
7 may have to be put on hold simply because  
8 the conditions and the risks that is posed  
9 to the living conditions at the community,  
10 which may perhaps force us to leave the  
11 area, which will definitely cause a lot of  
12 emotional, as well as economic, hardships to  
13 us.  
14 In the interests of full  
15 disclosure, I must mention that I'm a  
16 professional engineer who has spent more  
17 than four decades in the oil and gas  
18 industry. In my humble opinion and in my  
19 sort of expertise that I have in the area,  
20 I'm absolutely certain that there are  
21 alternative technological projects that  
22 can be implemented which can meet the  
23 society's need of clean energy, creation of  
24 excellent jobs, and the economic impact  
25 while preserving the profit motives of

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1 Transco.  
2 I believe in free enterprise and I  
3 do believe that the company needs to have a  
4 fair shot at making a decent profit, but I  
5 think all of these things are possible  
6 through other -- by clearly evaluating  
7 projects that can still meet this need.  
8 As an engineer, I'm not convinced  
9 that Transco has done their due diligence  
10 very vigorously. Therefore, I submit to you  
11 and ask you to please defer or please reject  
12 their permit.  
13 Thank you very much for listening  
14 to me.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
16 sir.  
17 Speaker number 44, Patricia.  
18 MS. LONE: Yes. My name is  
19 Patricia, P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A, Lone, L-O-N-E.  
20 And I'm a Princeton resident and wanted to  
21 come here in solidarity with my neighbors  
22 from this area of Somerset County and South  
23 Brunswick and to add my voice urging you to  
24 please reject this application.  
25 I just wanted to point out that

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1 there have been many, many, many very  
2 learned and very interesting presentations.  
3 And I just wanted to use a metaphor  
4 that if I had applied for a permit to cover  
5 the wetlands to build even a house of  
6 worship or a home, I would expect the  
7 Department of Environmental Protection and  
8 all the other agencies to be sure that I was  
9 not going to abuse the environment.  
10 And now I hear that you're  
11 considering an application not from a home,  
12 but from a compressor station which is going  
13 to emit poisons into the atmosphere, into  
14 the water. It's going to pollute with  
15 noise. I understand that the noise level is  
16 comparable to that of a commercial jet  
17 taking off.  
18 The noise, the poisons that it's  
19 going to release do not belong in our area  
20 water, anywhere near where people live and  
21 children play. I really urge the department  
22 to please reject this application.  
23 Thank you.  
24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
25 Speaker numbers 46, 47, 48, 49.

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1 And we have speaker number 45.  
2 MR. LONE: Hi. My name is Salim,  
3 S-A-L-I-M, Lone, L-O-N-E.  
4 First of all, Madame Secretary,  
5 thank you very much for holding this very,  
6 very interesting hearing. Like my wife, I  
7 am in utter awe at the wealth of knowledge  
8 and expertise that exists in this community.  
9 We've been very happy to be living here and  
10 now I feel very proud of living here.  
11 Every speaker who has spoken has  
12 added new dimensions of dangers that we are  
13 facing from this horrible enterprise. And I  
14 just cannot believe that if we are serious  
15 about the environment, and I know that your  
16 department is, that this project could go  
17 through.  
18 Two, I'm nevertheless afraid that  
19 we are witnessing a vast travesty of  
20 democracy and human rights. Everyone who  
21 has spoken here, and I'm sure virtually all  
22 the residents of this area, are utterly  
23 opposed to this project. They believe, on  
24 the basic objective facts, that this will  
25 harm them and their community, and yet I'm

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1 afraid this project seems to be on course.  
2 While we do want you to hold  
3 another hearing, there are other  
4 considerations that will be in play. And  
5 that brings me to the next point, that we  
6 live in a democracy. And I think it is  
7 absolutely vital that we make it clear to  
8 Governor Murphy and all other elected  
9 representatives that if they approve this  
10 terrible project, there will be a very heavy  
11 political price for them to pay.  
12 I think important as these hearings  
13 are, and I know they have some effect, we  
14 must make this a political issue and focus  
15 much more soundly on how we are going to  
16 convince our elected leaders of the price  
17 they have to pay.  
18 I finally want to add something  
19 more to what my wife just said about  
20 building a house or a house of worship.  
21 When we moved to Princeton, we moved to New  
22 Jersey from Africa, we chose to live in  
23 Princeton rather than where our son lived,  
24 25 miles away, because of its natural beauty  
25 and wildlife. And of course we take trips

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1 back and forth all the time. We don't mind  
2 doing that.  
3 But when the first house that we  
4 saw that we wanted to buy, we wanted to  
5 build a small garage onto it. We were told  
6 we could not even build a patio on it  
7 because of the wetlands; that the absolute  
8 limit to the soils under our house had been  
9 breached and it will cost thousands of  
10 dollars and it's up to -- the New Jersey  
11 Department of Environmental Protection  
12 would be not very willing to go along with  
13 it.  
14 Anyway, thank you very, very much.  
15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
16 Thank you. Speaker number 46.  
17 Don.  
18 MR. SCHNEIDER: My name is Donald  
19 Schneider, S-C-H-N-E-I-D-E-R.  
20 I want to approach this from a  
21 different point of view: money. Thanks to  
22 Dick Cheney, fracking companies do not have  
23 to meet any environmental laws. They go  
24 ahead and still produce wells and the  
25 methane shoots out as they're trying to cap

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1 it and it doesn't matter.  
2 And if we are interested in global  
3 warming, like I believe we've stated now  
4 that we have a different administration,  
5 every time we do anything to get gas from  
6 Pennsylvania and move it somewhere else, we  
7 are destroying the environment. Because  
8 we're taking -- all the gas that they're  
9 coming is from fracking.  
10 And the way that fracking is going  
11 now, these wells are not producing the  
12 amount of gas that they claim. And they're  
13 all overleveraged and so the first thing  
14 they do is dig another well. Each time they  
15 dig a well, more methane into the  
16 environment.  
17 New York and New Jersey don't  
18 have any fracking. Pennsylvania chose to  
19 have fracking. They obviously don't care  
20 about the environment and the amount of  
21 methane that gets released with every well.  
22 And they've chosen New Jersey to transport  
23 the excess gas that they're not using to  
24 New York, and New York doesn't even want  
25 it.

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1           Why are we putting ourselves in  
 2 this position to profit the people who are  
 3 investing in these wells?  
 4           You have a million other reasons  
 5 that's been given tonight to reject the  
 6 plan. It violated every law, every rule,  
 7 everything that's going. But also look at  
 8 the money. Look at the big picture. Look  
 9 at what you're doing when you say, yes,  
 10 we're going to do it, we're going to take  
 11 this money, this gas, and transport it.  
 12           Why should we run the risk of leaks  
 13 and explosions? I remember the Edison  
 14 explosion and these people running in their  
 15 pajamas and birthday suits from this  
 16 firewall that was coming down on their  
 17 apartments. The people that have been  
 18 talking, they can't run that fast. If  
 19 there's an explosion, that fireball is  
 20 going to consume them. And you better  
 21 think about that when you think about  
 22 passing any of their requests.  
 23           Thank you.  
 24           (Applause from audience)  
 25           THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

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1           sir.  
 2           Speaker 47, Pradip.  
 3           MR. CHAKRAVARTI: Pradip  
 4 Chakravarti, P-R-A-D-I-P  
 5 C-H-A-K-R-A-V-A-R-T-I. I'm a resident of  
 6 South Brunswick Township.  
 7           Under the Freshwater Wetlands  
 8 Protection Act, Transco is required to first  
 9 avoid wetlands, then minimize. And if those  
 10 approaches failed, then and only then,  
 11 engage in mitigation. But Transco paid no  
 12 heed to this requirement.  
 13           In the short list of sites  
 14 acceptable to Transco, all are in the  
 15 wetlands. Over 41 acres of wetlands in New  
 16 Jersey, including 20 acres of forested  
 17 wetlands, will be negatively impacted. By  
 18 Transco's own estimate, recovery of  
 19 forested wetlands could take 30 years or  
 20 more.  
 21           Under the Freshwater Protection  
 22 rules, NJDEP must consider whether the  
 23 project serves the public interest in the  
 24 preservation of national resources.  
 25           Transco's analysis of alternative sites that

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1           are not in the wetlands is incomplete. It's  
 2 clear that they have only considered the  
 3 cost of the project, how it can be  
 4 minimized, while ignoring the protection of  
 5 natural resources.  
 6           Quite apart from site selection, is  
 7 this project even necessary? Reports  
 8 indicate that New York does not need this  
 9 amount of additional gas. Even if all  
 10 residential and commercial heating units  
 11 were converted from oil to gas, NESE would  
 12 deliver twice as much gas as needed.  
 13           Transco has yet to show that the  
 14 NESE project is in compliance with New  
 15 Jersey stormwater management rules. In  
 16 fact, the stormwater basin design at  
 17 Compressor Station 206 has numerous errors.  
 18 In its technical deficiency letter of  
 19 September 27th, NJDEP has required Transco  
 20 to consider relocating and/or redesigning  
 21 portions of the project related to  
 22 stormwater management.  
 23           We urge the NJDEP to continue to  
 24 reject Transco's Freshwater Wetlands Permit  
 25 application until it is in total compliance

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1           with New Jersey stormwater management and  
 2 dam safety rules.  
 3           Sections of the existing pipelines  
 4 that will carry the increased gas load are  
 5 50 to 60 years old and some pass through  
 6 densely populated areas. Higher pressure,  
 7 higher velocity in these lines could  
 8 accelerate corrosion and result in cracks  
 9 that could lead to a fire or explosion. The  
 10 risks are very high, but Transco has yet to  
 11 submit any plans to test the integrity of  
 12 these old pipes. This is totally  
 13 unacceptable.  
 14           I ask that NJDEP reject Transco's  
 15 application.  
 16           Thank you.  
 17           THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
 18 sir.  
 19           Speaker number 48, Tara?  
 20           MS. LAMONT: Good evening. My name  
 21 is Tara Lamont, spelled T-A-R-A L-A-M-O-N-T,  
 22 and I'm a resident of South Brunswick.  
 23           A video of this project is on  
 24 Williams/Transco's website and it shows the  
 25 Compressor Station 206 in the middle of

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1 forest that stretches to the horizon. There  
 2 is nothing that shows the Buddhist vihara  
 3 next door or the heavy residential and  
 4 commercial development half a mile away.  
 5 This should tell you something. They don't  
 6 know about Google satellite maps. As  
 7 mentioned, site selection must be reopened  
 8 and the alternative of just adding a new  
 9 pipeline should be considered.

10 The project normally provides more  
 11 than double the gas that New York City  
 12 needs, but more troubling is that this  
 13 decision was based on an outdated 2011 plan.  
 14 New York City is now, and as stated in a  
 15 September 2017 ruling, that it is aiming for  
 16 a goal of 80 percent reduction of greenhouse  
 17 gasses by 2050. This will actually require  
 18 reduction in the use of natural gas. And  
 19 they have asked Con Edison to look at  
 20 options.

21 So what gives? What is this  
 22 project about? We don't know.

23 Point two, rubber stamp the air  
 24 protection permit that was based on  
 25 25-year-old thresholds. The newest

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1 hazardous air pollution thresholds that NJ  
 2 DEP submitted -- I mean developed, is -- in  
 3 February 2018 has completely different  
 4 numbers.

5 It is criminal to let this permit  
 6 not be challenged because things like  
 7 formaldehyde with 440 pounds per year in the  
 8 old threshold and the current threshold is 3  
 9 and 1/2 pounds per year. And guess what the  
 10 two turbines at Compressor Station 206 is  
 11 emitting? The 668 pounds per year. This is  
 12 true for benzene, it's true for seven  
 13 hazardous air pollutants. And it's really  
 14 up to NJDEP to look at this and open this  
 15 issue up.

16 The requirements to fulfill the  
 17 Freshwater Protection Act and the Clean  
 18 Water act must be based on factual  
 19 determination, evaluation and tests.  
 20 Transco in their application has failed to  
 21 satisfy the standard, instead using  
 22 rhetoric all the time that it will seek to  
 23 minimize impact to the greatest extent  
 24 possible within the parameters of their  
 25 project.

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1 This does not meet compliance.  
 2 They lack the subsurface geology analysis  
 3 and the bioretention basin makes absolutely  
 4 no sense and it does not comply with either  
 5 the stormwater management rules or the  
 6 requirements of New Jersey's Best Management  
 7 Practices manual, something simple like no  
 8 standing water after 72 hours.

9 Thank you. My time is up.  
 10 Appreciate it.

11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
 12 you. You can always submit comments in  
 13 writing or leave your comments with us.

14 MS. LAMONT: I have.

15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Great. Thank  
 16 you, ma'am.

17 Speaker number 49, Elizabeth.  
 18 And then we'll have 50, 51, 52, 53,  
 19 get ready.

20 MS. ROEDEL: Elizabeth Roedell,  
 21 R-O-E-D-E-L-L, and I'm a resident of South  
 22 Brunswick Township. I live in close  
 23 proximity to the proposed Compressor Station  
 24 206.  
 25 I am deeply concerned that

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1 Williams/Transco proposes to remove 35.3  
 2 acres of upland forest which includes  
 3 forested wetland to build a compressor  
 4 station.

5 In a densely populated state, New  
 6 Jersey cannot afford to lose any critical  
 7 habitat that supports resident and migratory  
 8 birds as well as wildlife. The loss of  
 9 trees with this removal will take its toll  
 10 on human health as well, increasing the  
 11 pollution in an already heavily trafficked  
 12 area as the toxins will no longer be  
 13 absorbed by the missing trees.

14 The added pollution from the  
 15 compressor station is sure to endanger the  
 16 lives of the even now at risk children,  
 17 elderly and disabled who suffer from chronic  
 18 disease and respiratory ailments.

19 I ask where the benefits to New  
 20 Jersey is for the Northeast Supply  
 21 Enhancement Project? All of this  
 22 environmental devastation and human  
 23 health risk to New Jersey and its  
 24 residents, in order to supply New York City  
 25 with natural gas it does not need defies

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1 logic.

2 Has Williams/Transco provided the

3 New Jersey DEP with any factual proof of

4 this so-called need? The New Jersey DEP has

5 already ruled the Williams/Transco permit

6 application in question is incomplete.

7 So it begs the question why

8 Williams/Transco selected a site with

9 freshwater wetlands to begin with, a site

10 near an active blasting quarry, and the

11 threat of contamination from the nearby

12 Superfund site.

13 The construction of this compressor

14 station will change the dynamics of the area

15 and could affect the current status of the

16 bedrock and freshwater wetlands raising

17 questions about the future safety of a

18 Superfund site and the threat to the area's

19 clean drinking water with the runoff from

20 the toxins from the compressor station into

21 Carter Brook.

22 The project clearly is not in the

23 public's interests. New Jersey residents

24 are committed to environmental conservation

25 and a future of clean energy. The New

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1 Jersey DEP should reject the Freshwater

2 Wetlands Individual Permit application as

3 Williams/Transco has not fully demonstrated

4 that Compressor Station 206 is needed at

5 all.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause from audience)

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

9 Speaker number 50, Sid Madison.

10 MR. MADISON: Sid Madison from

11 Planet Earth, of which our species is

12 destroying for future generation. S-I-D

13 M-A-D-I-S-O-N.

14 Deny the permit. Many relative

15 comments have been given that should allow

16 the denial. If there's any question, bend

17 the rules because, as you heard, stop fossil

18 fuels or the game is over, which was a

19 reference to Special Report 15.

20 That conclusion is based upon the

21 laws of nature, physics, chemistry and

22 biology. Those laws supersede the rules

23 that I am asking you to bend.

24 So I repeat, deny the permit.

25 Audience, support Climate Fast.

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1 It's working to stop fossil fuels in New

2 Jersey. Find it on the internet. If you

3 have not already seen an article on Special

4 Report 15 from the IPCC, do so. It is the

5 basis for saying no more fossil fuels, which

6 Climate Fast is attempting.

7 When you are on the internet, look

8 up the project Draw Down. The project

9 reports on 80 peer-reviewed solutions to

10 reverse -- let me repeat that, reverse --

11 global warming that is required for future

12 generations.

13 The most interesting thing about

14 this project is frequently asked question

15 number 5: Why isn't a carbon tax part of

16 the solution? Because a carbon tax is a

17 policy, not a solution.

18 But the good news is a carbon tax,

19 according to Draw Down project, is the most

20 important policy to implement the 80

21 solutions. To be effective, a carbon tax

22 must be a -- must be a national legislation.

23 The audience must make sure that the public

24 will support a carbon tax, probably sometime

25 after the 2020 election. Much work must be

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1 done in order to get everybody involved and

2 understand what that's requiring.

3 In summary, the internet

4 connections that you need to look at are

5 Climate Fast, Special Report 15, and Project

6 Draw Down.

7 Thank you.

8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

9 Speaker 51, Dennis Washington.

10 And then speakers 52, 53, 54 can

11 move forward.

12 MR. WASHINGTON: My name is Dennis

13 Washington, D-E-N-N-I-S W-A-S-H-I-N-G-T-O-N.

14 I'm from Franklin Park and a former Franklin

15 Township firefighter.

16 I just want to read from an article

17 here. It says from June 2015 to June 2017,

18 the following incidents have been

19 documented:

20 February 17, 2017, a natural gas

21 pipeline operated by Kinder-Morgan in

22 Refugio, Texas, exploded creating a massive

23 fire. The explosion shook homes 60 miles

24 away.

25 February 10th, 2017, a natural gas



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1 pipeline operated by Phillips 66 Pipeline in  
 2 St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, exploded  
 3 injuring three workers.  
 4 February 1st, 2017, a DCP pipeline  
 5 in Panola County, Texas exploded and created  
 6 a crater in an airport runway, shutting down  
 7 the airport for a month.  
 8 January 17, 2017, a natural gas  
 9 pipeline operated by DCP Midstream exploded  
 10 in Spearman, Texas which led to multiple  
 11 fire crews being called to the scene.  
 12 August 20, 2016, ten people in New  
 13 Mexico were killed when they were camping  
 14 near an underground natural gas pipeline  
 15 operated by El Paso Energy that suddenly  
 16 exploded.  
 17 April 18, 2016, two workers were  
 18 killed when they struck a pipeline at the  
 19 Southwest Gas processing plant in Bonnie  
 20 View, Texas.  
 21 April 29, 2016, a 30-inch pipeline  
 22 in Salem Township, operate by Spectra,  
 23 exploded, severely injuring a worker and  
 24 caused the evacuation of local businesses  
 25 and homes.

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1 And it goes on and on and on and  
 2 on. Basically there's really no upside  
 3 for New Jersey residents or New Jersey at  
 4 all in this compressor station. And the  
 5 risks to the current -- in the current  
 6 location, which is right by the quarry,  
 7 which conducts explosions and excavations,  
 8 would tax the existing legacy pipelines that  
 9 are in place. And by adding a compressor  
 10 to increase the stress on those pipes  
 11 would be just a disaster waiting to  
 12 happen.  
 13 This really needs to be rejected.  
 14 The only reason for it is not for the  
 15 well-being of New Jersey or New Jersey  
 16 families, but to put money in Transco's  
 17 pocket and money in the pockets of whoever  
 18 is supporting this.  
 19 And that's all. Thank you.  
 20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 21 Speaker number 52, Louise? Speaker  
 22 number 52?  
 23 All right. Speaker number 53?  
 24 Hodge is the last name.  
 25 Speaker 54, Jeremy Pollack.

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1 MR. POLLACK: Good evening. My  
 2 name is Jeremy Pollack. That's J-E-R-E-M-Y  
 3 P-O-L-L-A-C-K.  
 4 I've been a resident in Somerset  
 5 and Middlesex Counties near to the  
 6 proposed Northeast Supply Enhancement  
 7 Project for about 50 years, within a stone's  
 8 throw of the Delaware/Raritan Canal, a  
 9 principal potable water source in this  
 10 area, and of the Millstone River basin  
 11 area.  
 12 I'm a retired technical person, but  
 13 my comments below relate to simple ad hoc  
 14 first-person observations of seeing severe  
 15 local stormwater management problems of  
 16 which wetlands prominently figure. Put  
 17 simply, in four decades, I've seen three  
 18 100-year floods flooding local area roads  
 19 and into the Delaware and Raritan Canal,  
 20 a potable water source. Some of the  
 21 floods were so routine permanent gates  
 22 have been installed for some local  
 23 roadways.  
 24 Fact. From tonight's modest rain,  
 25 one gate is already closed. Notably, on two

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1 occasions, local floods over-topped the  
 2 Millstone River bridge on Route 27. I've  
 3 seen cars floating on area roads. One  
 4 rescue worker died while checking one such  
 5 car.  
 6 Most troubling, though, I've seen  
 7 the Millstone River overwash into the  
 8 Delaware/Raritan Canal. Again, a potable  
 9 water source. Twice this has happened.  
 10 It's important that we use accurate  
 11 terminology in understanding all of this.  
 12 There are three basic types of water tables.  
 13 The first, a common reference just to the  
 14 "water table" is not adequate as the  
 15 aquifer, water table, in this area is  
 16 nominally at 55 to 75 feet below grade.  
 17 The second is the river's water  
 18 level, now overwhelmed by centuries of man's  
 19 habitats. Again, three 100-year floods in  
 20 the last 40 years in our area.  
 21 The third is perched water table,  
 22 which is really what we should be talking  
 23 about. This is the one we need to  
 24 reference. A perched water table is  
 25 groundwater which only percolates to a

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1 relatively shallow depth below grade where  
 2 it is stopped by the diabase rock and/or  
 3 clay layers that we have in this area.  
 4 I've included in my presentation,  
 5 that I'll submit electronically, a diagram  
 6 of perched water. This can be referenced on  
 7 Wikipedia as well.  
 8 In Transco's NESE project, perched  
 9 water is a serious threat as it will exit  
 10 the natural grade at a lower point and cause  
 11 additional local flooding; i.e., in addition  
 12 to the chronic flooding we already have.  
 13 In particular, perched water is now  
 14 already repeatedly over-topping Carters  
 15 Brook earthen retention dam, at Promenade  
 16 Boulevard in the Princeton Walk. And I'm  
 17 submitting pictures of that as well.  
 18 Bottom line, we already have a  
 19 real serious surface and perched water  
 20 problem in this area. We cannot afford  
 21 adding water from the Transco's Northeast  
 22 Supply Project to our existing perched water  
 23 problems.  
 24 Thank you.  
 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

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1 sir.  
 2 Speaker number 55?  
 3 MS. POLLACK: My name is Marcia  
 4 Pollack, M-A-R-C-I-A P-O-L-L-A-C-K.  
 5 I have lived here within five miles  
 6 of this project for the past 44 years. The  
 7 reason there's a stone quarry here is that  
 8 there are layers of rock beneath the surface  
 9 in this area. And because the rock doesn't  
 10 allow our stormwater to penetrate very far,  
 11 it sits down there. As my husband probably  
 12 mentioned, it's called perched water. So  
 13 the amount of runoff that the whole area can  
 14 handle is very, very small.  
 15 I have seen areas the experts have  
 16 labeled 100-year flood zones flooded three  
 17 times in the past years. I've twice seen  
 18 the Millstone River, into which Carter Brook  
 19 flows, rise more than 20 feet to flood the  
 20 new Route 27 bridge five miles downhill from  
 21 the Transco site.  
 22 The expert predictions have not  
 23 been very accurate in this area. Perhaps  
 24 due to climate change, we can now expect  
 25 even worse predictions in the future.

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1 I hope you will keep this in mind  
 2 as you assess the stormwater management  
 3 proposal submitted by Transco. Proposals  
 4 that fail to consider the extremely poor  
 5 drainage in this area and that fail to  
 6 extrapolate for the increased  
 7 precipitation expected in the future will  
 8 likely result in worsening of the flooding  
 9 situation.  
 10 Thank you.  
 11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 12 Speaker 56, Barbara Cuthbert.  
 13 MS. CUTHBERT: Hi. Barbara  
 14 Cuthbert, C-U-T-H-B-E-R-T, and I live in  
 15 Franklin Township.  
 16 And I'm here to request that the  
 17 NJDEP does not paper over missing and  
 18 purposeful smokescreen things that are in  
 19 the application from Williams/Transco. For  
 20 each of the wetlands, the application is  
 21 missing a thorough, factually based analysis  
 22 of the value of each wetlands, as well as  
 23 their specific avoidance of the minimization  
 24 efforts that they would minimize the  
 25 impacts.

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1 Believing that Williams/Transco  
 2 will follow best practices in their plans  
 3 and procedures to minimize any impacts on  
 4 the freshwater wetlands without outside  
 5 oversight is very worrisome.  
 6 Earlier this year the Pennsylvania  
 7 DEP issued notices, plural, of violations to  
 8 Williams/Transco for not following their  
 9 soil erosion and sediment plan, for not  
 10 following their best practices two months in  
 11 a row.  
 12 And while they were investigating  
 13 unauthorized discharge of sediment into  
 14 wetlands, they saw Williams/Transco's  
 15 contracted person was using HDD construction  
 16 methods that were not authorized.  
 17 Again, also in the Atlantic Sunrise  
 18 project in Pennsylvania, Williams/Transco  
 19 removed a stormwater basin over the  
 20 objections of the township and, following a  
 21 very heavy rainfall, a mobile home community  
 22 flooded, even though they didn't flood in  
 23 earlier years when the basin was there,  
 24 during events like Tropical Storms Lee and  
 25 Agnes.

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1 Williams/Transco's record of  
2 accidents and hiring contractors who do not  
3 follow their procedures makes it all the  
4 more important that NJDEP hold their feet to  
5 the fire and demand that they follow all New  
6 Jersey regulations to the letter of the law.  
7 Dancing around issues should not be  
8 acceptable to the NJDEP in in their review  
9 of this application.  
10 Claiming that they will -- that  
11 their erosion and sediment control plan will  
12 ensure that the waters of New Jersey will  
13 not be degraded does not provide any factual  
14 determination for the plans in the  
15 application. They plan to go through toxic  
16 soils, toxic groundwater, dig in shallow  
17 acid-producing clay soil, and use horizontal  
18 directional drilling in an exceptionally --  
19 in an exceptional value wetland.  
20 They did not provide any  
21 site-specific analysis to back up their  
22 claim that they can protect our waters and  
23 our resources from construction in and  
24 near wetlands by following their generic  
25 plans.

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1 As people mentioned before,  
2 claiming that they chose the site for  
3 Compressor Station 206 to avoid wetlands as  
4 much as possible, it's not accurate since  
5 their final possible choices were all on  
6 wetlands.  
7 Claiming that they can construct a  
8 bioretention basin according to NJDEP  
9 requirements in an area with a high water  
10 table and bedrock that is close to the  
11 surface belies common sense and, again,  
12 doesn't meet the standards of the stormwater  
13 management.  
14 One more and then I'll stop.  
15 Not studying or modeling the  
16 potential for construction of the Madison  
17 Loop to create conditions that exacerbate  
18 algal blooms is not something that should be  
19 acceptable to the NJDEP.  
20 I've submitted written comments and  
21 I'll submit a copy of this one too.  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
23 ma'am.  
24 Speaker number 57, Jessie.  
25 MS. LINDSAY: My name is Jessie

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1 Lindsay. That's spelled J-E-S-S-I-E  
2 L-I-N-D-S-A-Y. I'm a resident of Somerset.  
3 I'm opposed to this NESE project for the  
4 following reasons: The Intergovernmental  
5 Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, the report  
6 that just came out -- that's based on 100  
7 scientists, not fake news -- they tell us  
8 global temperatures will rise 1 and 1/2  
9 degrees Celsius -- that's almost 3 degrees  
10 Fahrenheit -- by 2030, not 2050.  
11 The United States, the world's  
12 second largest emitter of carbon dioxide,  
13 needs to make a rapid and historic sweeping  
14 change to energy, transportation, and other  
15 systems in 12 years.  
16 As of 2018, emissions are still  
17 rising. We don't have time to transition to  
18 renewables. It's renewables or die. There  
19 are plenty of jobs in renewables. You can  
20 always get another job, but you cannot  
21 reverse extinction.  
22 The IPCC has reported a 60 percent  
23 drop in the average wildlife population  
24 since 1970. This proposed pipeline and  
25 compressor will affect the already

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1 threatened and endangered species in the  
2 wetlands that it's going to go through.  
3 Wetlands are vital to not only animal and  
4 insect life, but the lives of humanity.  
5 New Jersey and New York do not need  
6 or want this project. It's just a Go Fund  
7 Me for billionaires. Just check out who is  
8 in the Forbes 400. They all made their  
9 money making pipelines that we did not  
10 need.  
11 Thank you.  
12 (Applause from audience)  
13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Deborah  
14 Greenberg, speaker number 59?  
15 Speaker number 60. I can't  
16 really read the handwriting here. I think  
17 it's P-A-F-U-L-L or P-R-A?  
18 Speaker number 61, Hersh?  
19 Speaker number 63, Rafael?  
20 MR. MELENDEZ: Rafael Melendez,  
21 R-A-F-A-E-L M-E-L-E-N-D-E-Z.  
22 So my concern is the quality of the  
23 pipe through which we are connecting. I  
24 understand that it's not 50 years old; it's  
25 about 30 years old. But I'm a mechanical

1 engineer. I design piping systems for  
 2 buildings. The first thing that you learn  
 3 when you design piping systems is that they  
 4 all leak. Eventually they all leak.  
 5 This pipe is 30 years old. It  
 6 connects to other piping systems down the  
 7 distribution line that are about 50 to 60  
 8 years old. I can guarantee you those are  
 9 leaking. Okay?  
 10 Let me tell you a little anecdote.  
 11 In 2013 two MIT professors migrated to  
 12 Washington, D.C. and they walked 1,500 miles  
 13 inside Washington, D.C. and they checked  
 14 every single natural gas manifold and they  
 15 found that six thousand of them were  
 16 leaking.  
 17 Now, that's just Washington, D.C.  
 18 They didn't check anywhere else. Six  
 19 thousand of them. Of the six thousand, 19  
 20 were explosive. Five hundred thousand parts  
 21 per million was detected in 19 of them.  
 22 They told the utility company. And three  
 23 months later, when they were supposed to  
 24 come back and check, and they did, 9 of the  
 25 19 were still explosive.

1 So it's a question of do these  
 2 things leak? Yes, they leak. What about  
 3 the quality control? It's lacking.  
 4 You're going to add more capacity  
 5 to this pipe. That means there's going to  
 6 be more mass flow inside this pipe. More  
 7 mass flow means more vibration of the pipe.  
 8 That means more leakage.  
 9 I think what these people are doing  
 10 is playing Russian roulette here in New  
 11 Jersey. We got a big problem. You know, I  
 12 think we are considered the place where  
 13 people come to dump their garbage and that's  
 14 what they're doing.  
 15 In New York they don't need this.  
 16 New York is -- New York has -- the mayor has  
 17 a policy of 80 by 50, which means that by  
 18 2050, 80 percent of the energy in New York  
 19 is going to be provided by green sources,  
 20 not fossil fuels, which means that you're  
 21 only going to have 20 percent requirement by  
 22 2050.  
 23 I'll read you from the United  
 24 States Energy Information Administration.  
 25 They have a weekly natural gas storage

1 report. And for this, for October 26th, for  
 2 natural gas there is a decrease of 623  
 3 billion cubic feet, which is less than last  
 4 year's at this time, and 638 billion cubic  
 5 feet below the five-year average of 3,781  
 6 billion cubic feet. At 3,143 billion cubic  
 7 feet, total working gas is below the  
 8 five-year historical range.  
 9 We're not using natural gas. And  
 10 oil consumption this month is 3 percent less  
 11 than last year, and it was 3 percent less  
 12 the year before. So we're using less oil  
 13 and less gas. So what is this for? What is  
 14 this for? I don't know. I really don't,  
 15 you know. But we -- I think they're playing  
 16 Russian roulette here and that's a big  
 17 problem.  
 18 Thank you very much.  
 19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 20 (Applause from audience)  
 21 THE HEARING OFFICER: Speaker  
 22 number 64, Steven.  
 23 MR. GEORGES: Yes. My name is  
 24 Steven Georges, S-T-E-V-E-N G-E-O-R-G-E-S.  
 25 I'm not going to repeat what the

1 60-some-odd speakers before me have said  
 2 tonight. I'm from the preserve of Princeton  
 3 Walk, which is about a stone's throw from  
 4 Princeton Manor, where I've been very --  
 5 where I've lived for 20 years in the  
 6 preserve.  
 7 I spoke to a number of my  
 8 neighbors to see if they could come. They  
 9 have young children in South Brunswick. In  
 10 addition to tomorrow being Election Day,  
 11 tonight is parent-teacher night. So for  
 12 that reason there should be another  
 13 hearing.  
 14 I've seen in the 20 years that I've  
 15 lived in our home, and we have a protected  
 16 area right behind my house, which is really  
 17 shared with the gentleman who submitted  
 18 photographs of the standing water. And in  
 19 these 20 years, the water level is rising.  
 20 And that's before all of these acres of  
 21 trees are taken down.  
 22 A deficient application. We should  
 23 not even be here tonight. And there is a  
 24 lot of political power, a lot of brain  
 25 power, probably more Ph.D.'s per square foot

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1 than in any other great state in this  
2 nation. And we will be back. And there is  
3 no moral reason that the Department of  
4 Environmental Protection of New Jersey  
5 should be considering this proposal. There  
6 is no public benefit.  
7 And I don't want to repeat what 60  
8 other people have said. Just there should  
9 be another meeting for all the parents of  
10 young children who cannot be here tonight.  
11 (Applause from audience)  
12 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.  
13 Thank you.  
14 Speaker number 65, Dona.  
15 DR. LISI-FAZIO: Yes, thank you.  
16 My name is Dr. Dona Lisi-Fazio D-O-N-A  
17 L-I-S-I-F-A-Z-I-O and I'm a resident of  
18 Franklin Township.  
19 As a clinical pharmacist, parent,  
20 Girl Scout leader and member of Franklin  
21 Township Committee, I am adamantly opposed  
22 to this project. I have seen the reports of  
23 the toxic chemicals that have been generated  
24 and will be released into the air and water  
25 surrounding Franklin Township. And as a

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1 health professional, I am deeply disturbed  
2 by the results.  
3 It is anticipated that the  
4 Compressor Station 206 will emit the  
5 following toxins, including ammonia,  
6 formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, benzene,  
7 toluene, ethyl benzene, naphthalene and  
8 Xylenes, as well as others in addition to  
9 particulate matter and greenhouse gasses.  
10 As a pharmacist, I want to share  
11 with you the effects of some of these  
12 substances that others have briefly  
13 mentioned. Based on data from New Jersey's  
14 own hazardous substance section, repeated  
15 exposure to ammonia, formaldehyde and  
16 acetaldehyde may cause an asthma-like  
17 allergy and lead to lung damage. Having had  
18 asthma since a very young age, I fully  
19 understand the suffering that this disease  
20 causes. The public health toll will be  
21 great.  
22 Formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and  
23 benzene are known carcinogens and mutagens  
24 which are substances that cause genetic  
25 mutations. And this is the first time that

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1 I announced it in public: I am also a  
2 cancer survivor.  
3 Acetaldehyde's Hazardous Substance  
4 Fact Sheet, clearly states, in capital  
5 letters, that the chemicals are known  
6 teratogens, which are substances that cause  
7 birth defects. Children may be exposed to  
8 higher concentrations of toluene, since it's  
9 denser in air and its vapors stay closer to  
10 the grounds.  
11 Also, children have faster  
12 breathing rates than adults and may  
13 therefore breathe in more toluene. In older  
14 children and in adolescents, repeated  
15 exposure to toluene has been associated  
16 with the loss of muscle control, loss of  
17 memory, balance, and decreased mental  
18 abilities. Some of these changes may last  
19 for a long time after toluene has even left  
20 the body.  
21 Exposure to toluene during  
22 pregnancy has been associated with birth  
23 defects, including retardation of mental  
24 abilities and growth.  
25 Repeated exposure to benzene can

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1 cause aplastic anemia, a life-threatening  
2 blood disorder resulting in damage to the  
3 bone marrow and blood-producing --  
4 blood-cell-producing stem cells, which  
5 leaves the individual vulnerable to sepsis  
6 and hemorrhage.  
7 Seizures and cardiac arrhythmias  
8 have been associated with high exposure to  
9 benzene. Toluene, ethyl benzene,  
10 naphthalene, these all can cause liver  
11 and/or kidney damage.  
12 Also important are these compounds  
13 are flammable. And to that extent poisonous  
14 gasses are produced and can result in  
15 massive explosions further contaminating the  
16 air and water. In fact, acetaldehyde itself  
17 is spontaneously decomposed or polymerized  
18 to form explosive peroxides when heated,  
19 distilled, evaporated or even when  
20 contaminated. It's considered flammable,  
21 reactive and explosive. And this is just  
22 one compound.  
23 Therefore, based on the health and  
24 environmental hazards posed by this  
25 compressor station and pipeline, I strongly

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1 urge the DEP to oppose this and deny  
2 permits.  
3 (Applause from audience.)  
4 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
5 Speaker number 66, Sheila.  
6 MS. CRONHEIM: I was given 67.  
7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is Sheila  
8 here, Sheila Geisler?  
9 Okay.  
10 MS. CRONHEIM: My name is Patty,  
11 P-A-T-T-Y, Cronheim, C-R-O-N-H-E-I-M. I'm  
12 with ReThink Energy New Jersey. And today  
13 is all about water. And the NJDEP itself  
14 has determined that this Northeast Supply  
15 Enhancement project application is  
16 technically deficient.  
17 And you all have the authority  
18 under the Clean Water Act to reject this  
19 permit because it does not fulfill the  
20 requirements of the Freshwater Wetlands  
21 Protection Act and New Jersey's requirement  
22 under Section 4.04 of the Clean Water Act.  
23 Today I'm going to talk about two  
24 aspects of the specific application within  
25 the context of safety. And the reason I

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1 dive into safety a lot, these days I have  
2 the opportunity to go study pipeline safety  
3 engineering in Houston out of FIMSA project.  
4 I got a tag grant to do that. We studied  
5 pipeline engineering at the FIMSA tag grant.  
6 And I was just on a panel with the  
7 administrator, head administrator of FIMSA,  
8 an industry on engagement.  
9 So the NESE project is part of a  
10 large Williams expansion. In about a  
11 50-mile radius of where we're standing now,  
12 central New Jersey, there's the equivalent  
13 of five new or proposed compressor stations.  
14 And these would stress the safety dynamics  
15 of the pipeline system, our existing system.  
16 All this new infrastructure would increase  
17 the volume of gas and in some cases  
18 operating pressures and velocities through  
19 our existing system.  
20 Simply put, we'd be pushing more  
21 gas faster and hotter through old lines. We  
22 know the pipelines are most vulnerable to  
23 explosion in the first five years of being  
24 built and that they age. Unfortunately, New  
25 Jersey has the perfect storm: new and

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1 proposed pipelines and compressor stations  
2 like NESE, Penny's, the Roseland compressor  
3 station, and older aging pipelines at the  
4 500 miles or so of the Williams/Transco  
5 system.  
6 FIMSA only oversees pipelines and  
7 compressor stations after they're built.  
8 They don't evaluate the safety to build them  
9 in the first place. And as I and members of  
10 my group have testified in the master plan  
11 this year, New Jersey needs to require a  
12 complete and transparent safety analysis to  
13 look at the potential impacts the proposed  
14 pipeline will have on the existing pipeline.  
15 So I can't stand here and tell you  
16 the pipeline's safe and I can't tell you  
17 it's not safe. The truth is I don't know.  
18 FIMSA doesn't know. The State of New Jersey  
19 doesn't know, and in many cases operators  
20 themselves don't know.  
21 What I can tell you is that  
22 Williams just this summer has been issued a  
23 recommended fine of \$400,000 by FIMSA. It's  
24 an open case for missing plans, missing  
25 reports, not following their own plans, lack

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1 of inspections and, most scary, running  
2 lines at overly high pressure through our  
3 communities. And interstate pipelines are  
4 already allowed to operate at safety  
5 standards lower than New Jersey allows for  
6 in-state pipelines.  
7 So the two parts of the permit I  
8 promised I would talk about and touch on  
9 really quickly are the sulfuric acid part of  
10 the clays that everyone has mentioned which  
11 have a low pH of 3. This would jeopardize  
12 pipeline integrity.  
13 That's like a can of Coca-Cola. I  
14 mean, Coca-Cola has a pH of 3. Imagine a  
15 what that does to the surface of the car.  
16 That's what it does to the linings of  
17 pipelines. And it would also increase the  
18 risk of HD failure and unstable soils from  
19 lack of vegetation.  
20 And also the compressor station's  
21 stormwater basin. This basin, if it fails,  
22 would increase the risk of groundwater  
23 contamination from chemical condensation  
24 that can collect and build up from the  
25 massive cooling systems; oil spills from the

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1 lube tanks.  
 2 In Pennsylvania there was  
 3 accidentally oil that was vented with the  
 4 gas and spewed for a square mile in the  
 5 area. Groundwater contamination from toxic  
 6 wastewater and potential for hydrostatic  
 7 hydrocarbon storage tanks.  
 8 So these are all the less big, not  
 9 the big explosive fire things, but the more  
 10 common things that happen in compressor  
 11 stations that we have to worry about with  
 12 water that impacts wetlands, Carter Brook  
 13 and the Heathcote Brook.  
 14 So basically I just want to  
 15 summarize and say New Jersey cannot count on  
 16 FERC and federal agencies to keep our  
 17 residents and communities and water safe.  
 18 NJDEP needs to hold Williams/Transco to New  
 19 Jersey's strict standards under the Clean  
 20 Water Act and state regulations and reject  
 21 this permit.  
 22 And, of course, we think energy  
 23 always supports clean energy efficiency and  
 24 a clean energy future.  
 25 Thank you.

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1 (Applause from audience)  
 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 3 Okay. The next speaker is Edith  
 4 Nolan.  
 5 Speaker number 70, Ted.  
 6 MR. GLICK: Ted, T-E-D, Glick,  
 7 G-L-I-C-K. I'm actually from Bloomfield,  
 8 New Jersey. I've been a climate activist  
 9 for about 15 years. And for the past five  
 10 years, I've been active, first trying to  
 11 prevent the building of the Roseland  
 12 Compressor Station, and after we couldn't  
 13 stop that, now we're trying to prevent it  
 14 being expanded.  
 15 I am the coordinator of Roseland  
 16 against the compressor station. I'm also on  
 17 the steering committee of the group 350 New  
 18 Jersey. And I've known about this  
 19 Compressor Station 206 and about NESE for a  
 20 number of -- for a while, but I have to  
 21 say, coming down here and listening to  
 22 everything that everyone has been saying has  
 23 been very eye-opening and incredibly  
 24 revealing.  
 25 I honestly -- I just can't

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1 understand how any Department of  
 2 Environmental Protection could listen  
 3 seriously or read seriously what people have  
 4 said here tonight and do anything other than  
 5 say no to Williams when it comes to this  
 6 project. It doesn't make any sense  
 7 otherwise.  
 8 There are so many reasons that  
 9 people have put forward as to why this  
 10 should never be built, what's being  
 11 projected should never be built in this  
 12 area. It's the same with the Roseland  
 13 compressor and this expansion of the  
 14 Roseland compressor. I'm not going to get  
 15 into that. That's not what things are about  
 16 tonight. But if it's similar, somewhat  
 17 different at points, it also should be  
 18 rejected.  
 19 And, in fact, right now, as I  
 20 understand it, there are 11 projects that  
 21 the New Jersey DEP is considering in terms  
 22 of fossil fuel infrastructure expansion in  
 23 New Jersey, whether it be pipelines, new  
 24 compressor stations, the expansion of  
 25 existing compressor stations or power plants

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1 powered by gas. All of those should be put  
 2 on hold at least. At least. There could be  
 3 a moratorium on any more fossil fuel  
 4 infrastructure being approved or built in  
 5 New Jersey.  
 6 (Applause from audience)  
 7 MR. GLICK: It goes totally against  
 8 what Governor Murphy has said he wants to  
 9 do. It goes totally against what a number  
 10 of people have said tonight, what's needed  
 11 because of the depth of the climate crisis  
 12 and how serious things are as the IPCC  
 13 itself said just last month.  
 14 The last thing I'll say is that  
 15 because of the seriousness of the situation  
 16 and because of the need for this moratorium  
 17 on any new fossil fuel structure, the  
 18 infrastructure being approved, there is a  
 19 Climate Fast. It's actually online,  
 20 ClimateFastNJ.com. That is starting on  
 21 Wednesday. There are a number of people who  
 22 are going to be fasting for anywhere between  
 23 from 1 day and 14 days, from November 7th to  
 24 November 21st. A number of us will be in  
 25 Trenton. I personally will be fasting for

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1 14 days on water only to underline the  
2 urgency and the seriousness of this issue  
3 and the need for DEP to respond accordingly.  
4 (Applause from audience)  
5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Thank  
6 you.  
7 Number 71, Caren Wilson.  
8 MS. WILSON: Caren, C-A-R-E-N,  
9 Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N. I'm a resident of  
10 Franklin Township. I've been here for 20  
11 years. I've been in the State of New Jersey  
12 my whole life except for my graduate school,  
13 but I came back.  
14 I'm basically here to request that  
15 the New Jersey DEP deny the NESE application  
16 does which does not comply with the  
17 stormwater management rules. Their  
18 application is also incomplete, as  
19 everybody else said, but I'm more than  
20 happy to say it again. Their application is  
21 also, as I said, incomplete and they've  
22 received a number of deficiency letters  
23 about that.  
24 Additionally, I'm going to request  
25 that the New Jersey DEP please review the

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1 air permits that were already granted to  
2 them since the air quality standards have  
3 changed since those permits were given to  
4 them. And since the project is not yet  
5 approved, that's something that should be  
6 re-evaluated.  
7 So much has already been said. I  
8 remember the explosion that happened in  
9 Edison. That was in 1994. I remember the  
10 Branchburg explosion in 2013, which was  
11 Williams/Transco by the way. They have a  
12 history of poor safety management.  
13 I can't even understand why it is  
14 necessary to question whether or not this  
15 project should continue given the fact that  
16 their application's incomplete. They have  
17 poor safety standards and they couldn't have  
18 picked a worse possible spot to put this.  
19 They have not looked at anywhere other than  
20 wetlands, which is what the New Jersey DEP  
21 is concerned about.  
22 And they're not addressing the  
23 issues with the wetlands that they should be  
24 the way that they should be. The fact that  
25 they're choosing to put this by an active

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1 rock quarry is just inconceivable. It's in  
2 a highly vented, populated area. It's by  
3 13 schools. It's by retirement homes. It's  
4 by historical sites. It's by our water  
5 supply and it's right down the canal from  
6 the water processing plant. It's a  
7 recreational area and it's surrounded by  
8 wetlands.  
9 And if there is an explosion, which  
10 we've seen enough of in New Jersey with  
11 compressor stations, it's -- it's not  
12 something that this township is equipped to  
13 deal with. I mean, one of the first things  
14 that was pointed out is that we do not have  
15 the capacity to treat an explosion of that  
16 magnitude.  
17 So, again, please, I am asking  
18 you, requesting that you deny this  
19 application and don't let this project go  
20 forward.  
21 Thank you.  
22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
23 Number 72? Number 73, Murthy?  
24 MR. UPMKA: Good evening. Thanks  
25 for staying this long and thanks for your

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1 patience.  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Your name,  
3 please.  
4 MR. UPMKA: My first name is  
5 M-U-R-T-H-Y. The last name U-P-M-A-K-A.  
6 I'm a resident of Franklin Township.  
7 Myself and my family live here. I'm  
8 representing my family and a ton of friends  
9 on the social media who sponsor and agree  
10 with our opinions and reviews on this  
11 project.  
12 There are many people spoke  
13 before me, very eminently, very eloquently,  
14 very effectively. I think that should be  
15 good enough for stopping this project, but I  
16 want to present my points as well. So I may  
17 have a hundred points, but I have only three  
18 minutes and I want to cut it down to as  
19 short as possible.  
20 So the few points I want to present  
21 to you, several points. One of the things  
22 that I learned about this project is that  
23 the company has not presented all the design  
24 parameters to the public. We don't know  
25 what it means. Any signs for the project



1 should have a thorough study. We should  
2 know all the plans. If we don't know, that  
3 casts a huge doubt. So that's an unknown  
4 thing.

5 But what is the known thing about  
6 it? If those parameters are sound, the  
7 project is well executed, it's very clear.  
8 It's going to emit toxic gasses. It's going  
9 to spoil the soil. The pH value is 3, which  
10 is like drinking diluted hydrochloric acid.  
11 Have you ever touched hydrochloric acid  
12 that's diluted? It burns your skin. And so  
13 that's a known. It's very well known.

14 And breathing nitrous oxide is  
15 very toxic. And if it is going through the  
16 air. So just consider, this is a simple  
17 known fact and then we should stop there  
18 itself.

19 And the second one is the public  
20 interest. It's not in the interests of any  
21 of the New Jersey residents. It's going to  
22 probably benefit some people across the  
23 river on the Hudson Bay to the New York  
24 City. I believe they are getting that much  
25 energy anyways. So please consider it from

1 that angle. It's not in the interest of any  
2 of the public interest.

3 And the third one, I believe I hope  
4 we got as others have said, the other  
5 parties that have spoke in the first two or  
6 three speakers, the business angle. Think  
7 of that. People getting sick in this  
8 community down the line in five years, all  
9 of us causing Medicare/Medicaid bills to the  
10 state.

11 That is not an economic benefit.  
12 That's a loss, total loss to the state. So  
13 there is no benefit if you look from any of  
14 these angles. There is no merit to this  
15 project. So please, please help stop this  
16 project.

17 Thank you very much.

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
19 Speaker number 74.

20 MR. GUPTA: Good evening. I'm  
21 Vinod Gupta, V-I-N-O-D G-U-P-T-A. I live in  
22 Franklin Park, two miles from the proposed  
23 site of the compressor. I'm very concerned  
24 about the Williams/Transco Compressor  
25 Station 206. That is, the company's

1 planning to build in a densely populated  
2 area and woods. The company with deep  
3 pockets and big lawyers have tried to run  
4 through the approval process using  
5 incomplete and often wrong data,  
6 downplaying the risks and amplifying the  
7 benefits.

8 The task force appointed by the  
9 Franklin Township Council has done a  
10 wonderful job of sifting through miles of  
11 documents submitted by company's lawyers,  
12 largely aimed at misleading folks and NJDEP  
13 and overwhelming the innocent public. The  
14 task folks have explained all the texts in  
15 very simple language. They tell us how  
16 toxic, hazardous, noisy and risky this  
17 compressor is going to be.

18 I don't need to repeat how many  
19 tons of carbon monoxide, formaldehydes,  
20 benzene, toluene, and other dangerous toxins  
21 are going to be released in air, that  
22 eventually end up as acid rains into our  
23 freshwater lakes.

24 The findings are already in the  
25 hands of council, assemblymen, congressmen

1 and senators. These elected representatives  
2 have done exactly what they're supposed to  
3 do. They have asked for NJ Department of  
4 Environmental Protection to protect the  
5 environment and the people of New Jersey.

6 The residents are scared that they  
7 will have to live the rest of their lives  
8 under a fear of inhaling slow poison in the  
9 children's lungs, hearts and brains; buildup  
10 of contaminants in freshwater lakes and/or  
11 soil and streams. They will be forced to  
12 live under a constant fear of yet another  
13 fire accident and yet another environmental  
14 disaster.

15 I'm here to ask NJDEP, can you  
16 really certify that the toxicity of these  
17 gas-fueled massive compressors is not going  
18 to impact the air, water, forest of our  
19 neighborhood and the safety of thousands of  
20 people living near this compressor and  
21 corroded pipeline for next half a century?  
22 If you can't, do the right thing. Deny the  
23 permit.

24 Thank you.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,

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1 sir.  
2 I'm going to need speakers in  
3 the -- I just want to see if they're still  
4 here. Speakers 75, 76, 77, 78, 79.  
5 Okay. I'll also do speaker 82?  
6 No. Speakers 83, 84, 85, 86. Okay? Thank  
7 you.  
8 So speaker 75? 77? 78? If you  
9 have an 80, just come forward here.  
10 Thank you.  
11 MR. TIWARI: My name is Surendra  
12 Tiwari, S-U-R-E-N-D-R-A T-I-W-A-R-I. I'm  
13 here to request you to deny the permit and  
14 I'll tell you why. It's interesting that  
15 when this started, the hearing, the four or  
16 five people who supported it and claimed to  
17 have 35,000 members or 7,000 members and so  
18 and so forth, I don't see them here.  
19 We are here now. You know why  
20 we're staying till midnight? Because we are  
21 worried about our kids and us and enduring  
22 that formaldehyde or inhaling the methane  
23 and nitrous oxide. You know, that worries  
24 us. So we are going to stay here the whole  
25 night and appeal to you to deny this

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1 project.  
2 They spoke about everything else  
3 except what is the permit application. Did  
4 you notice that? The water permit  
5 application is what is at stake here.  
6 Now I'm going to read to you, which  
7 many people have done before. The  
8 construction to reduce the capacity of  
9 wetlands to buffer flood flow and control  
10 erosion. There was no factual determination  
11 by Williams/Transco that the erosion and  
12 sediment control plan would ensure the  
13 ground surface water would not be degraded.  
14 Second, potential sediment  
15 destruction from construction in and around  
16 Cheesequake Creek could increase the  
17 potential for growth of harmful algal  
18 blooms.  
19 Third, the Madison Loop could cross  
20 or be very close to several toxic sites with  
21 contaminated groundwater or soil and the  
22 application is missing soil and groundwater  
23 analysis in this area.  
24 Four, the Madison Loop will go  
25 through areas and acid-producing places

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1 while exposing this quality to the air  
2 producing acid. The compressor would make  
3 it difficult to monitor and would destroy  
4 the area. Also impacting nearby wetlands  
5 and surface waters. Additionally, low pH  
6 waters are more corrosive to pipelines.  
7 Construction of the Madison Loop would  
8 create conditions of algal blooms.  
9 I am very worried about the  
10 devastating issues of this project it can  
11 create for us. You know, it's interesting  
12 that New York, which supposedly needs  
13 this project, has totally rejected it and  
14 we are stuck with it. I don't understand  
15 that.  
16 There was a study done a few years  
17 ago, and I heard, you know how much it adds  
18 to Franklin Township taxes? Seven dollars a  
19 household. That's the advantage to New  
20 Jersey. That's the advantage to the town  
21 that this project would be putting.  
22 I can't understand any reason to  
23 allow this project. I respectfully request  
24 you to please deny this project. There's no  
25 reason to allow this project to go through.

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1 Thank you so much.  
2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
3 sir.  
4 (Applause from audience)  
5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Speaker  
6 number 80, please come forward.  
7 Bernadette, are you here?  
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm 83.  
9 Number 80 is Diane.  
10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. So  
11 80 -- well, I have Patty Cronin on here as  
12 number 80. She spoke earlier.  
13 MS. HEYER: I think she left.  
14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Yes, I know.  
15 She spoke earlier.  
16 MS. HEYER: I was 95.  
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: You were 95.  
18 So then you took her number.  
19 MS. HEYER: Right, I took her  
20 number.  
21 My name is Diane Heyer, H-E-Y-E-R.  
22 I live in Highgate Manor, Kendall Park, in  
23 South Brunswick.  
24 First of all, I'd like to say that  
25 I'm disappointed that the expired air permit

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1 was not pulled. The purpose of the NJDEP is  
2 to protect our environment by managing the  
3 state's natural resources and addressing  
4 issues related to pollution. I do not see  
5 our environment being protected, but  
6 destroyed for generations to come if this  
7 project is pushed through.

8 The compressor station is not in  
9 the public's interest. We have no need for  
10 an industrial gas complex that can endanger  
11 the lives of people within at least 15 miles  
12 of it. The station will be built next to  
13 the Trap Rock quarry, which dynamites daily.  
14 And we feel these blasts in our home daily,  
15 as well as others in my neighborhood and  
16 neighborhoods that are farther away from us  
17 as well.

18 Have any studies been conducted to  
19 gauge the impact of dynamite explosions on  
20 the compressor station and pipeline? Could  
21 the force possibly cause a pipeline breach  
22 and explosion? My friend, a retired teacher  
23 and peaceful Buddhist monk, would have this  
24 monstrosity in their backyards. They and  
25 all the residents in that area would be in

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1 grave danger should such an explosion occur.  
2 No one should have to live under such  
3 conditions.

4 Explosions aside, the amount and  
5 variety of chemicals such as benzene  
6 formaldehyde, which has been stated already,  
7 will be emitted from large smokestacks which  
8 will have a detrimental effect on human life  
9 and the surrounding environment. This alone  
10 should be cause enough not to continue with  
11 this project.

12 In my opinion, Williams/Transco  
13 does not care for the safety of the people  
14 nor the environment. It is my understanding  
15 that the Northeast Supply Enhancement  
16 Project will not be delivering energy  
17 supplies to the people who live in New  
18 Jersey.

19 In what way does this benefit New  
20 Jersey? One might argue that jobs will be  
21 created from the construction of this gas  
22 compressor complex, but renewable clean  
23 energy will provide just as many.  
24 Williams/Transco should be focusing on the  
25 future direction of energy production, not

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1 continuing the expansion of fossil fuels for  
2 short-term gain.

3 Williams/Transco has failed to  
4 identify and analyze the subsurface geology  
5 of the land in which it will be burying its  
6 pipelines. The land they desire to use in  
7 the Madison Loop is known to contain  
8 acid-producing clay. Exposure of these  
9 clays to be aired during excavation will  
10 produce an acidic soil making it difficult  
11 for plant growth.

12 These conditions complicate slope  
13 stability and restoration efforts which,  
14 in turn, may harm wetlands and surface  
15 waters. Please don't think that just  
16 because we are not living near an ocean that  
17 large bodies of water cannot be harmed by  
18 this expansion.

19 NJDEP, I am requesting that you do  
20 your job. There are human beings living  
21 here, going to school here, working here,  
22 shopping here. What will become of the  
23 innocent people who are trying to live their  
24 lives unimpeded by the threat of explosion,  
25 environmental pollution and cancer-causing

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1 emissions?

2 You can stop this horrendous  
3 expansion project. Please deny Transco the  
4 Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit  
5 application. You have already stated that  
6 the NESE applications are technically  
7 deficient. Therefore, you must deny the  
8 application and Compressor Station 206  
9 must not be built.

10 New Jersey is already overpolluted.  
11 Climate change is getting worse. I beg you,  
12 please stop this project.

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
14 Bernadette Maher. And then  
15 anybody else who's in the 80s, please step  
16 forward.

17 MS. MAHER: Thank you. Bernadette  
18 B-E-R-N-A-D-E-T-T-E, Maher, M-A-H-E-R.

19 Yes, good evening. I'm a resident  
20 of Franklin Township and I'm asking the DEP  
21 to deny these water permits. Water is a  
22 precious, precious commodity and once we  
23 pollute it, we're done.

24 And this project is about people,  
25 people in our communities. You saw just

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1 some of them tonight. Others couldn't make  
2 it. And our lives are the lives that are  
3 being affected, our families' lives, our  
4 other community members' lives.  
5 Under the Freshwater Wetlands  
6 Protection Act rules, the project cannot  
7 destroy, jeopardize or adversely modify a  
8 present or documented habitat for threatened  
9 or endangered species and the  
10 Williams/Transco is required to address the  
11 probable individual and cumulative impacts  
12 on public health and fish and wildlife.  
13 The NESE project would harm or  
14 change habitat for threatened and endangered  
15 species. The wetlands along the Madison  
16 Loop have suitable foraging habitats for the  
17 bald eagle, osprey and black crown-night  
18 heron.  
19 The wetlands along the Madison Loop  
20 have suitable vesting habits for the bald  
21 eagle and osprey.  
22 As far as we know, Williams/Transco  
23 has not completed the requested nesting  
24 survey for any area where they plan to cut  
25 down trees or destroy habitat or threatened

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1 or endangered species. Construction would  
2 alter vegetation, increase exposure to wind,  
3 light and temperature fluctuations in  
4 fragile habitats.  
5 These applications are deficient.  
6 Please deny them.  
7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
8 Speaker 84, Robert? 85? 86?  
9 MS. MATURO: Thank you. My name is  
10 Theresa, T-H-E-R-E-S-A, Maturo, M-A-T-U-R-O.  
11 I'm a resident of Princeton Manor. I'm here  
12 tonight because I'm concerned that we are  
13 pushing ahead with a project that really  
14 should just not even be on the table at this  
15 point.  
16 Earlier tonight I heard people  
17 mischaracterize this as an infrastructure  
18 enhancement and really what we're talking  
19 about is a supply enhancement. We're  
20 increasing their value, not increasing our  
21 safety.  
22 We're mischaracterizing by saying  
23 the energy mix for New Jersey is ripe. New  
24 Jersey isn't even being supplied from this.  
25 There are safety concerns. The applicant

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1 admits excessive amounts of pollution  
2 emissions. And we allow them to mitigate  
3 somewhere else. Those of us living here are  
4 going to deal with these excessive amounts  
5 of pollution emissions and we will be  
6 harmed. There's no way around that. We're  
7 not going to be mitigated.  
8 We're supposed to avoid using  
9 wetlands or choose least-damaging  
10 alternatives and no viable alternatives were  
11 ever considered. This application shouldn't  
12 even be considered at this point.  
13 If you haven't heard enough  
14 already, I would say have more hearings,  
15 but I can't imagine you haven't already  
16 heard enough to say this application should  
17 not go forward and this permit should be  
18 denied.  
19 We're asking to hold our elected  
20 officials accountable, appointed officials  
21 accountable. It is your responsibility to  
22 protect our safety. And if you're not  
23 willing to do that, I don't know where we go  
24 from there.  
25 Please deny this permit. They have

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1 been deficient. They failed to support  
2 their claims and they have not complied with  
3 the application requirements.  
4 Thank you.  
5 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
6 (Applause from audience)  
7 THE HEARING OFFICER: Speaker 87,  
8 Carol?  
9 MS. KUEHN: I'm Carol Kuehn,  
10 C-A-R-O-L K-U-E-H-N. And I'm here as the  
11 Board member of the New Jersey Buddhist  
12 Vihara and Meditation Center. I'm speaking  
13 today representing the monks you saw sitting  
14 there before and the congregants of the  
15 Vihara.  
16 The Vihara currently operates out  
17 of a two-story house and is home to the  
18 largest Samadhi Buddhist statute in the  
19 western hemisphere which is visited by a  
20 steady stream of people and has been  
21 designated as a cultural landmark by  
22 Franklin Township.  
23 A meditation trail runs through the  
24 first maybe half of the lot at this point  
25 and plans are that it will be extended

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1 through the entirety of the lot.  
 2 Unfortunately, the site chosen by  
 3 Williams/Transco for the Compressor Station  
 4 206 borders on the rear property line of the  
 5 vihara, putting all their structures within  
 6 one-half mile of the proposed 32,000 horse  
 7 power turbines and the extended meditation  
 8 trail less than one-quarter mile away.  
 9 Well, when the vihara purchased  
 10 their property 15 years ago, they did so  
 11 largely based on the peace and serenity  
 12 provided by the setting of undisturbed  
 13 woodlands with a meandering stream running  
 14 through them. Even better, most of the  
 15 neighborhood land was wooded wetlands so  
 16 there seemed to be very little possibility  
 17 of nearby development.  
 18 Now, however, the vihara's very  
 19 purpose for existing there is threatened by  
 20 the possibility of the negative effects from  
 21 ecological, safety and health hazards, as  
 22 well as the impacts on religious practices  
 23 and spiritual growth from the encroachment  
 24 of the proposed compressor station.  
 25 Our concerns include the effects of

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1 air, water and noise pollution on the health  
 2 and well-being of the school children, adult  
 3 congregants, visitors and the noise from the  
 4 compressor air turbines, disrupting  
 5 meditation and other religious practices  
 6 which are often performed outdoors during  
 7 the warmer months.  
 8 There's also concerns about the  
 9 adverse effects that an adjacent industrial  
 10 complex would have on the serenity and  
 11 natural beauty of the vihara and the safety  
 12 issues posed by the potential hazards of  
 13 fires, leaks and explosions. Not only from  
 14 the compressor station, but also from the  
 15 aging pipelines, some of which are 50 to 60  
 16 years old.  
 17 However, for this hearing we'll  
 18 focus on our concerns about water issues.  
 19 One is that building on the proposed site  
 20 would result in a permanent loss of more  
 21 than 2 acres of forested wetlands and  
 22 construction could result in a diminished  
 23 capacity of intact wetlands to buffer flood  
 24 flow and to control erosion in an area that  
 25 already sees significant flooding during

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1 periods of rain.  
 2 Transco has not yet delineated a  
 3 stormwater management plan or a bioretention  
 4 basin plan that is acceptable to NJDEP's  
 5 standards and are unlikely to be able to do  
 6 so given the high water table and bedrock  
 7 close to the surface in the area.  
 8 Failure to address these adequately  
 9 could result in increased downstream  
 10 flooding on wetlands and properties along  
 11 Carters Brook. For these reasons, we, as  
 12 concerned -- as a concerned religious  
 13 community, urge NJDEP to deny Transco a  
 14 freshwater wetlands permit.  
 15 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 16 Number 88.  
 17 (Applause from audience)  
 18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Number 90?  
 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got 89.  
 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This  
 21 gentleman switched. He has 88 now.  
 22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I said  
 23 88.  
 24 MR. DHANDU: Hi. My name is Siva  
 25 Dhandu, S-I-V-A D-H-A-N-D-U. I'm a resident

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1 of Franklin Township. Thank you for the  
 2 hearing and for sticking around.  
 3 I'm really encouraged that my  
 4 neighbors, people who live around here, are  
 5 so educated on this topic. I learned a lot  
 6 by being here.  
 7 I only have two things to say. I  
 8 have two young kids. They both have asthma.  
 9 They're ten and eight. I wonder what this  
 10 could do for their health as they grow and  
 11 they live here. Maybe other parents like me  
 12 would consider not living here with a  
 13 compressor in our backyard.  
 14 The only other thing I'd like to  
 15 say is Franklin constantly shows up in the  
 16 list of top 100 places to live in the U.S.  
 17 Would it still show up after the compressor?  
 18 I don't know. Maybe some things to think  
 19 about.  
 20 I would request that the permit  
 21 for this compressor be denied to protect the  
 22 place we live in, the environment we have  
 23 and -- the environment.  
 24 Thank you.  
 25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

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1 (Applause from audience)  
 2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Number 91,  
 3 Michael Bell?  
 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've got 89.  
 5 I'm reading it for somebody else.  
 6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh, I'm  
 7 sorry. I saw your name twice and I wasn't,  
 8 oh -- I thought -- we got confused. I  
 9 apologize, ma'am. Please come forward.  
 10 MS. KUEHN: Again, my name is Carol  
 11 Kuehn, K-U-E-H-N. I'm reading this  
 12 statement which was prepared by Barry Kutch,  
 13 K-U-T-C-H, a resident of South Brunswick  
 14 Township.  
 15 "I've asked my friend and  
 16 colleague, Carol Kuehn, to read this  
 17 statement on my behalf this evening. I  
 18 cannot be present as I'm out of state for a  
 19 long-planned family matter.  
 20 "I am president of Central Jersey  
 21 State Energy Coalition and a member of the  
 22 South Brunswick Township Task Force formed  
 23 by the township council to stop this  
 24 project.  
 25 "On June 11th, 2016, I received a

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1 'Dear Landowner' letter from  
 2 Williams/Transco in which I was informed  
 3 that a compressor station would be built  
 4 within half a mile of my home as part of the  
 5 Northeast Supply Enhancement Project.  
 6 "I was not familiar with compressor  
 7 stations, so I researched them. When I  
 8 found out through firsthand accounts,  
 9 studies, safety reports, videos, news  
 10 reports and more, what I found out was more  
 11 than appalling. Reports of explosions,  
 12 fires, noise, health issues due to  
 13 emissions, pollution and more were  
 14 widespread. My conclusion was that a  
 15 compressor station and the close  
 16 proximity of human habitation are not  
 17 compatible.  
 18 "I was elected to the Woods at  
 19 Princeton Walk Homeowners Association board  
 20 of trustees two days prior to my receiving  
 21 the 'Dear Landowner' letter. I believe I  
 22 had a responsibility to my community to  
 23 protect it from the hazards posed by the  
 24 project. I called a public community  
 25 meeting at which there was a deep concern

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1 expressed by those present over the negative  
 2 health, safety and quality of life issues  
 3 that would result in the compressor station  
 4 operating near our homes.  
 5 "The community was unanimous in its  
 6 opposition and, as a result, I co-founded  
 7 Central Jersey Safe Energy Coalition with  
 8 residents of the neighboring communities to  
 9 oppose the NESE project.  
 10 "Tonight you have heard individuals  
 11 opposing the project and others in support  
 12 of it. I am obviously opposed. I am not  
 13 going to address the shortfalls in  
 14 Williams/Transco's plan in relation to the  
 15 Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit  
 16 application; however, others have done that  
 17 tonight.  
 18 "What I would like to present are  
 19 my thoughts on the difference between those  
 20 who oppose this project and those who  
 21 support it. The vast majorities of  
 22 individual citizens opposing NESE live in  
 23 close proximity to it and will receive no  
 24 benefit from it; can have their health  
 25 impacted negatively; worry about their

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1 safety in relation to fire and the  
 2 possibility of having their quality of life  
 3 destroyed. They are concerned for  
 4 themselves and their children. They are  
 5 concerned about today and the potential  
 6 generations that could be impacted.  
 7 "Those in favor of NESE by and  
 8 large will not live near the compressor  
 9 station site and will suffer none of the  
 10 impacts of its operation. A great many of  
 11 these individuals stand to benefit  
 12 financially also.  
 13 "So what, I ask you to consider, is  
 14 what comments should have greater weight?  
 15 Is it the comment from someone whose health,  
 16 well-being and quality of life may be  
 17 destroyed or the individual who benefits  
 18 financially and suffers no negative  
 19 effect? From a moral and ethical  
 20 standpoint, I know the answer and I hope you  
 21 do also.  
 22 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 23 (Applause from audience)  
 24 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.  
 25 Speaker 91?

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1 MR. BELL: Michael Bell, B-E-L-L.  
2 I'm a resident of Franklin Township and have  
3 been living for about 28 years in a  
4 beautiful part of the world less than two  
5 miles from the proposed Compressor Station  
6 206.  
7 While I agree with the union  
8 members and their representatives who spoke  
9 at the beginning about the need for  
10 infrastructure projects in New Jersey, I  
11 vehemently disagree with them about their  
12 promotion of the Northeast Supply  
13 Enhancement Project at Compressor Station  
14 206. This project will benefit, marginally  
15 perhaps, New York and potential gas exports,  
16 not New Jersey at all.  
17 New Jersey residents and their  
18 environment will be placed at risk for the  
19 benefit of others. This station will  
20 produce local pollution and local risk far  
21 beyond the benefits that we, the residents  
22 of New Jersey, will accrue.  
23 In normal operation, a 30,000  
24 horse power compressor will produce  
25 pollution equivalent to one thousand motor

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1 vehicles cruising head to tail on the roads  
2 surrounding the Compressor Station 518, what  
3 we call the Quarry Road and Route 27.  
4 Furthermore, periodic blowdowns at  
5 the station itself will release large  
6 volumes of rural gas and condensate from the  
7 gas lines, some of which will find their way  
8 into our local water and wetlands, including  
9 runoff into the Millstone River and the  
10 D & R Canal.  
11 While it's true that some of the  
12 pipes were replaced about 30 years in the  
13 loop around the quarry, most of the pipe in  
14 the downstream side of this compressor  
15 station, which will suffer the highest  
16 pressure, is over 50 years old. Increased  
17 pressure and mass flow in that line will  
18 increase the risk of a catastrophic failure  
19 through corrosion and fatigue line and  
20 vibration.  
21 A rupture could release up to a  
22 thousand tons of gas, which is what is  
23 contained in a section of pipeline between  
24 shutoff valves in normal operation. A  
25 resulting fire and likely explosion will

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1 produce a huge amount of pollution, which  
2 will affect the air and water resources and  
3 supplies, including the D & R Canal, a  
4 source of drinking water for millions of New  
5 Jersey residents.  
6 I urge the NJDEP to reject this  
7 application by Transco to construct  
8 Compressor Station 206 and the whole  
9 Northeast Supply extension.  
10 Thank you.  
11 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
12 Mark, 92?  
13 MR. BERGMAN: My name is Mark  
14 Bergman, M-A-R-K B-E-R-G-M-A-N. I live in  
15 South Brunswick. I'm a builder in New  
16 Jersey and I want to remind DEP about their  
17 own rules.  
18 So if you are a builder and have  
19 any size land up to -- let's say a hundred  
20 acres, you're only allowed to disturb one  
21 acre wetlands. Presumably if you are  
22 building in New Jersey, you do something  
23 good if you're building a few homes.  
24 The other issue, as of right now,  
25 if I were building a project right now, I

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1 would consider actually not even using  
2 natural gas. Solar energy has become  
3 inexpensive enough so that you can supply  
4 all your energy needs, including heating, by  
5 using solar panels. And I suspect that  
6 within the next ten years, there will be  
7 absolutely no need for gas for any type of  
8 usage for heating our homes.  
9 Thank you.  
10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you,  
11 sir.  
12 Number 93, Jim? Ninety-four?  
13 Ninety-six? Ninety-seven? Ninety-eight?  
14 MR. PISAURO: Good evening. My  
15 name is Mike Pisauero. It's P-I-S-A-U-R-O.  
16 I'm an attorney and policy director for the  
17 Watershed Institute. Used to be known as  
18 Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association.  
19 We shortened it. It's better.  
20 Thank you very much for spending  
21 the time tonight to listen to the public,  
22 and I also appreciate your commitment to  
23 have an additional hearing or hearings.  
24 I would ask, though, since this  
25 application is technically deficient that

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1 those additional hearings wait until all of  
2 the information is in from Transco and the  
3 public has had time to review it before  
4 having the next hearing.  
5 (Applause from audience)  
6 MR. PISAURO: As I noted, the  
7 application is deficient and it may always  
8 be deficient in meeting our regulations.  
9 For example, the stormwater management basin  
10 is deficient. It's not meeting standards.  
11 It didn't meet it in the last application  
12 around; it hasn't met it this year. It may  
13 never meet it. And that is grounds enough  
14 to deny this application.  
15 As you heard time and time again,  
16 the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act and  
17 regulations, that creates a presumption that  
18 this project should not be built where it  
19 is. You've heard about the impacts or the  
20 flaws in the alternative analysis, and  
21 that's very important in a wetlands  
22 application.  
23 The FERC EIS analysis of  
24 alternatives is not the true water quality  
25 401 analysis. That is required to be a lot

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1 more detailed under federal and state law.  
2 But as I said, the wetlands,  
3 there's a presumption that there's another  
4 reason, another alternative. And that is  
5 because you've pored into wetlands and we  
6 enacted the Freshwater Wetlands Protection  
7 Act. The legislator recognized the severe  
8 impacts we've had in our wetlands systems  
9 and that if we did not stop that from  
10 unnecessary impacts, we were going to be  
11 paying a price.  
12 What Transco submitted to you is  
13 not information that you can base any  
14 positive decision on. Under the water  
15 quality regulations, under DEP's  
16 regulations, they have to come to you  
17 with facts and data and they haven't.  
18 They have come to you with  
19 generalizations, platitudes, and incorrect  
20 information.  
21 And another important thing to  
22 think about is under our Freshwater Wetlands  
23 Act, under the Surface Water Quality  
24 Standard Act regulations, they cannot have  
25 an impact to water quality if that water is

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1 already impaired. Carter Brook, Heathcote  
2 Brook, the Raritan basin is all impaired.  
3 The TMBL for the Raritan Basin  
4 requires a reduction in pollution in  
5 existing sites. This site is going to  
6 increase at least TSS, if not other  
7 pollution, and they have not met the  
8 requirements.  
9 You have enough before you to deny  
10 this and I respectfully request that you do  
11 that.  
12 Thank you.  
13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
14 Number 99, Brian? Number 100?  
15 102? 103?  
16 MR. PRINGLE: That's me.  
17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.  
18 MR. PRINGLE: My name is David  
19 Pringle and I am here tonight representing  
20 the Clean Water Action and I live in  
21 Cranford, New Jersey.  
22 I'd like to align myself And Clean  
23 Water action proudly with all of the  
24 opponents tonight. The turnout here was  
25 incredible and I will limit myself briefly

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1 to five points.  
2 First, this being Election eve,  
3 notwithstanding the second hearing, it  
4 strains credibility to not conclude either  
5 DEP is incredibly incompetent or is  
6 purposefully scheduling this hearing to  
7 depress turnout. It would make the  
8 lieutenant governor of Georgia proud.  
9 Two, weather and flooding, the  
10 primary vehicle of why we're here tonight.  
11 Do we really have too little flooding? Do  
12 we really have too many wetlands? This is a  
13 death by a thousand cuts. The authority --  
14 you have the authority to just say no. Just  
15 say no.  
16 Three. The climate crisis.  
17 Getting to 100 percent clean energy ever is  
18 going to be hard enough. This project,  
19 Penny, South Jersey Gas Pipeline, New Jersey  
20 Gas Pipeline, the Musconetcong Gas Plan, the  
21 Meadowlands Gas Plan, all in critically  
22 environmentally sensitive area, at the  
23 shore, the pinelands, the Highlands, the  
24 Delaware River, the Meadowlands. The  
25 governor's committee to 100 percent clean



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1 energy, you can't get there if you approve  
2 these kinds of projects. When you are in a  
3 hole, the first thing you do is stop  
4 digging. And you're digging more.  
5 So by not rejecting this project,  
6 you're either betraying the governor or the  
7 governor is betraying the commitment he's  
8 made repeatedly to this state.  
9 The only proponents I heard tonight  
10 were a few labor unions. And I wish they  
11 would just wake up and smell the coffee.  
12 The alternatives to this project were to  
13 create more jobs. The opponents of this  
14 project are diverse. They're from New  
15 Jersey, they're from Franklin, they're from  
16 New York.  
17 As previously pointed out, the  
18 supporters of the project are much less  
19 diverse. And they're cutting off their nose  
20 to spite their face because the  
21 alternatives, investing in smart growth,  
22 efficiency, fixing our power lines, wind,  
23 solar, create more jobs at less cost, more  
24 economic growth.  
25 We can argue how much money we have

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1 available for infrastructure, but it is  
2 limited. So we might as well use it on the  
3 things we all agree on, on the things that  
4 will create more jobs. It's not like we  
5 have too little lead in our drinking water  
6 and we have too little bacteria in our  
7 waterways. We can be investing our money in  
8 that infrastructure as well.  
9 So, in short, you got the power.  
10 Use it to do right.  
11 Thank you.  
12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
13 Number 106.  
14 MS. DELAHANTY: My name is Marylou  
15 Delahanty. It's M-A-R-Y-L-O-U  
16 D-E-L-A-H-A-N-T-Y. I'm an attorney and I  
17 represent a property owner near the Madison  
18 Loop. My client's name is the Trust Under  
19 Article 6 of the Will of Sigmund Sommer,  
20 S-O-M-M-E-R.  
21 We are opposed to the project. The  
22 application is not complete or sufficient.  
23 There's been a lot said tonight and it's  
24 been a long night and I will try not to  
25 repeat other arguments.

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1 My client's property is in the area  
2 of the former Morgan Arsenal. There was an  
3 explosion in 1918 of the Morgan Arsenal. It  
4 created buried ordnance throughout the area.  
5 There was a substantial loss of life and the  
6 effects of the explosion were felt for miles  
7 and miles.  
8 My clients were contacted by the  
9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers several years  
10 ago. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
11 stated it wanted to do an investigation in  
12 the area of my client's property and  
13 neighboring properties to determine whether  
14 buried ordnance still existed because there  
15 was a problem with it being discovered and  
16 explosions occurring.  
17 My clients consented to this  
18 investigation. We followed up with the U.S.  
19 Army Corps of Engineers and we were told  
20 that there was insufficient funding by the  
21 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement  
22 that project, so that project hasn't been  
23 implemented.  
24 Now, the Transco project plans to  
25 do work in this area, in the Madison Loop,

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1 and there have been no plans to make any  
2 determination as to whether the buried  
3 ordnance is an issue here and whether there  
4 would be further explosions.  
5 We've heard several speakers  
6 tonight speak of the explosions that are  
7 just endemic to the pipeline project  
8 itself, but this adds another problem and  
9 another safety concern that should be  
10 addressed.  
11 There is also the issue that  
12 there are contaminated sites in the  
13 Madison Loop area, the global landfill, and  
14 there are contaminated groundwater  
15 classification exception areas that have  
16 been granted by the DEP to both Dupont and  
17 local landfill.  
18 These kinds of environmental  
19 concerns compel the denial of this  
20 application.  
21 We will supplement with a written  
22 comment.  
23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
24 108?  
25 MR. KANAREK: My name is Michael

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1 Kanarek, K-A-N-A-R-E-K. My address is 4383  
 2 Route 27 in Franklin. I'm reading for two  
 3 people. My wife is handicapped. She  
 4 couldn't come. They wouldn't give me a  
 5 second slot. I will read slowly, but give  
 6 me the time to do it.  
 7 My name is Michael Kanarek,  
 8 K-A-N-A-R-E-K. My address is 4383 Route 27  
 9 in Franklin. On Ten Mile Run Mountain,  
 10 which is the hill for which this proposed  
 11 site and wetlands application. For this  
 12 specific wetlands permit, I will comment on,  
 13 one, public interest; two, wetlands; three,  
 14 safety.  
 15 One, about public interest. There  
 16 must be a public benefit that outweighs  
 17 public cost to justify a wetlands  
 18 disturbance.  
 19 1.1. You have heard from union  
 20 members arguing their interests. The  
 21 construction is a short-term employment  
 22 benefit, but the negative impact is  
 23 long-term. Only a few jobs will be created  
 24 by ongoing operations. If the union  
 25 members think this project nets out to a

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1 good idea, would any of them be willing to  
 2 move next door to the compressor there  
 3 Transco is going to build?  
 4 1.2. The increased gas supply is  
 5 of no benefit to New Jersey.  
 6 1.3. A cheaper gas supply is  
 7 contrary to New Jersey's 100 percent clean  
 8 energy policy. Gas itself is not a benefit  
 9 and cheaper gas encourages more usage, not  
 10 less, contrary to New Jersey's long-term  
 11 energy policy.  
 12 2. About wetlands for this  
 13 specific permit.  
 14 2.1. The wetlands process  
 15 obligates Transco first to avoid wetlands.  
 16 They did not do so and they only selected  
 17 wetland sites artificially creating the need  
 18 to take wetlands.  
 19 2.2. These wetlands are not in  
 20 isolation. They are part of the network of  
 21 high groundwater throughout the Ten Mile Run  
 22 Mountain area. High shale is why Trap Rock  
 23 is located next door and so the depth is  
 24 typically not much above 8 feet even in  
 25 uplands areas.

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1 Carters Brook, a Millstone  
 2 tributary, flows right next to the proposed  
 3 site. Whatever is built on these specific  
 4 wetlands will affect Carters Brook and flow  
 5 into the Millstone system, even including  
 6 increased below-ground temperature and  
 7 bacterial growth.  
 8 2.3. High groundwater is a  
 9 constant problem to all neighbors downhill  
 10 of the site on Ten Mile Run Mountain. I  
 11 already have twin sump pumps. My sump pump  
 12 runs constantly during rain runoff, for as  
 13 much as a day afterwards. No one nearby is  
 14 in favor of wetlands disruption that could  
 15 increase the velocity of the runoff even a  
 16 little bit. There is no acceptable  
 17 threshold for local residents.  
 18 3. Safety for this specific  
 19 permit.  
 20 3.1. NJDEP can consider the safety  
 21 for this permit. The proposal to build  
 22 discharge and suction piping creates dozens  
 23 or hundreds more points of engineering  
 24 failure. Every vent, every bolt, every  
 25 gasket will be shaken hard by Trap Rock

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1 blasting right next door several times a  
 2 week.  
 3 My house is further away from  
 4 the blasting than these wetlands and small  
 5 objects fall off shelves sometimes from the  
 6 blasting. I can feel my house jump every  
 7 time.  
 8 The very reason for this permit, is  
 9 to increase the complexity of high-pressure  
 10 underground gas connections next to a  
 11 blasting site, is inherently unsafe no  
 12 matter how well engineered. Another site  
 13 not near blasting must be selected if the  
 14 project overall requires one.  
 15 3.2, and last. The higher risk of  
 16 engineering failure is combined with a  
 17 higher hazards of surrounding conditions  
 18 around these specific wetlands.  
 19 First, Carters Brook is next to  
 20 these wetlands and will immediately carry  
 21 any catastrophe into the Millstone  
 22 waterways.  
 23 Second, in the Durham Woods  
 24 explosion, a one-third mile radius was  
 25 burned out by a column of fire. That was in

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1 a parking lot. There is a lot more fuel  
 2 around this specific wetlands, a  
 3 thousand-plus acres of woods. So a fireball  
 4 driven by expanding gas from the compressor  
 5 system, including the specific pipes passing  
 6 through these specific wetlands that they  
 7 are requesting, can touch off a  
 8 thousand-acre forest fire.

9 THE HEARING OFFICER: All right.  
 10 Speaker number 109.

11 MR. LIMA: Hi. My name is Daniel  
 12 Lima, L-I-M-A, from South Bound Brook. The  
 13 climate change crisis is the most dire issue  
 14 of our time, changing life as we know it.  
 15 What type of world are we leaving our young  
 16 children, younger generations, like my niece  
 17 and nephew?

18 If the permit is granted, it will  
 19 pollute the water with highly toxic  
 20 chemicals and emit methane, one of the most  
 21 damaging greenhouse gasses. Additionally,  
 22 public safety will also be at stake as we  
 23 have heard from speakers before you.  
 24 Potential explosions will be devastating to  
 25 the communities around it.

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1 In regards to laborers, what good  
 2 does it do to have dirty energy jobs that  
 3 will hurt the employees and their families  
 4 as well as the only place that we all call  
 5 home?

6 At a time when we need to move  
 7 toward 100 percent renewable energy, a gas  
 8 compressor in the wetlands is not the  
 9 answer. The NJDEP should unequivocally  
 10 reject the permit.

11 Thank you.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 13 Speaker number 105? Speaker 111?  
 14 Speaker 112?

15 MS. ROTH: That would be me.  
 16 Good evening. My name is Victoria  
 17 Roth, R-O-T-H. I appreciate everybody, as  
 18 myself, staying. I do agree that the timing  
 19 of this is difficult. I don't know what  
 20 needs to be done moving forward that people  
 21 wouldn't have to be here till literally 11  
 22 o'clock at night to make their concerns  
 23 known, but I am here.

24 I've been a resident of Franklin  
 25 Township for over 15 years. I am deeply

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1 concerned about the impact of this proposed  
 2 compressor station, of the Compressor  
 3 Station 206. It is right next to the  
 4 canal. That canal is a water -- it provides  
 5 water for so many towns.

6 And I will also speak to, as this  
 7 committee is largely about the wetlands, so  
 8 I will stick to those points, although  
 9 they've been made multiple times. This  
 10 project as proposed would cause an excessive  
 11 amount of destructive wetland impacts to  
 12 4.7 acres. Transco did not meet its  
 13 burden of showing the other alternatives  
 14 would cause less harm to wetland  
 15 ecosystems.

16 I concur with what's been said  
 17 about the various sites considered, that  
 18 they limited it to five wetlands. It's  
 19 inconceivable, as well as unconscionable to  
 20 my mind, that we are even at this stage of  
 21 discussion.

22 Both the Freshwater Wetlands  
 23 Protection Act and the Clean Water Act rely  
 24 on the 4.04 guidelines to provide guidance  
 25 regarding the preparation of an alternative

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1 analysis. Less harmful alternatives exist  
 2 which involve fewer wetland impacts.

3 Transco's application fails to  
 4 provide a comprehensive analysis of wetland  
 5 impacts. No meaningful analysis of wetland  
 6 impacts was provided in the wetland permit  
 7 application. Transco's selection of this  
 8 particular wetlands site causes impacts to  
 9 regulated resources, including wetlands and  
 10 waters which are avoidable. The New Jersey  
 11 DEP should reject this fresh water wetlands  
 12 permit due to its failure to even attempt to  
 13 comply with the SWPA.

14 Please, for all of the citizens  
 15 here and moving forward, for our state, deny  
 16 this permit.

17 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.  
 18 Speaker 113? Speaker 113?

19 We appreciate you taking the time  
 20 to come here today.

21 The information and testimony  
 22 presented at this hearing must be reviewed  
 23 by the Division of Land Use Regulation prior  
 24 to rendering a decision on this permit  
 25 application.

1           The record will remain open until  
 2 November 20th, 2018, which is 15 days after  
 3 today's hearing. As such, should you think  
 4 of additional concerns after the close of  
 5 the hearing, you may submit your comments in  
 6 writing by Tuesday, November 20th, 2018,  
 7 addressed to Matthew Resnick. A Hearing  
 8 Fact Sheet, which shows this contact  
 9 information, is available at the  
 10 registration desk. Speakers who have  
 11 prepared written comments are reminded to  
 12 leave a copy at the registration desk in the  
 13 lobby.

14           Once again, thank you for attending  
 15 this hearing. It is now closed. Good  
 16 night.

17           (Whereupon, the hearing concluded  
 18 at 10:58 p.m.)

19  
 20  
 21  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
 2  
 3           I, BRIDGET LOMBARDOZZI, Notary  
 4 Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter of  
 5 the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify  
 6 that the foregoing is a true and accurate  
 7 transcript of the testimony as taken  
 8 stenographically by and before me at the  
 9 time, place and the date hereinbefore set  
 10 forth.

11           I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am  
 12 neither a relative nor employee nor attorney  
 13 nor counsel of any of the parties to this  
 14 action, and that I am neither a relative nor  
 15 employee of such attorney or counsel, and  
 16 that I am not financially interested in the  
 17 action.

18  
 19  
 20  
 21  
 22

-----  
 BRIDGET LOMBARDOZZI,  
 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
 C.S.R. License No. XI01201

23  
 24  
 25

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