

Testimony at National Press Club
Private Property Taken For Corporate Gain

Good morning. We are Bill and Lynn Limpert. We are retired. Like most folks we have worked hard and followed the rules.

Recently we bought retirement property and built a home in Little Valley, Bath County, Western Virginia. It's the most beautiful property that we have seen. It's all wooded and much of it is very rare uncut virgin forest.

We were notified last February that a change in the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, or ACP, would cut our property in half. If approved by FERC, our property would be taken from us by a private corporation through eminent domain. It would reduce the virgin forest to a 3,000 foot long and 125 foot wide scar next to our home. This is the first tree on our property that would be cut. It's a sugar maple 12.2 feet in circumference. Many, many similar trees would follow. Blasting up to 35 feet deep would occur very close to our home and all across our property. We would be in the 2,200 foot blast zone of this pipeline where we would be killed in an explosion. Our well water could be polluted or completely cut off with no liability for the ACP. Our property value has already dropped \$1/4 million. We will abandon our retirement home and it will become a toxic asset if this pipeline is constructed. We cannot live in fear, or witness the destruction of our beautiful land.

I contacted FERC early on. I was dissuaded from becoming an intervenor for this project. FERC advised me that as an intervenor I would be forced to send out hundreds of letters. Only later, and from a private source, did I learn that I didn't need to send letters...just e-mail copies of my comments.

I learned that properties not directly impacted but still within the blast zone and the evacuation zone are not notified, and I asked FERC how many properties along the 600 mile pipeline are in those zones. The answer..."We don't know. We don't go into that level of detail". I am certain that there are over ten thousand properties in harm's way and FERC doesn't even acknowledge them.

FERC refuses to answer most of my questions. They refer me to large, complicated, technically written, and misleading documents filed by the ACP. Many of these are hundreds of pages in length. I've asked FERC for an explanation of some of these documents and their response..."We don't write them, and it is not our job to interpret them for you". FERC must be interpreting them. They are reviewing them. They just won't interpret them for the public.

FERC's public participation includes public comments to be considered by FERC in their decision making process. When I ask what comments are most important FERC doesn't give me an answer. They tell me they need substantive comments. On the other hand I frequently find specific directions from FERC to the ACP telling them exactly

what they need to submit.

So, it's like a professional football team coming into our valley. We're completely outmatched. We think FERC will help us or at least referee the mismatch, but instead they're on the other side of the field coaching the team and ignoring us. But in this case it's not just a game we stand to lose. It's our home and property.

These are only some of the issues that tell me that FERC is not functioning in the public interest. They are functioning solely for the energy industry. I've dealt with many federal agencies. They have always impressed me with their professionalism and dedication to public service. FERC is not one of them. FERC needs to be reformed to serve we the people...we the people...we the people.

Thank you