**White, Charles - Union Hill**

Our next testimony from the environmental justice communities is going to be Charles white from Union Hill and Buckingham County.

I'm from Union Hill, and I live just at the edge of the Union Grove neighborhood. I've been in Buckingham sixty-two years, and sixty-two of my 87 years I've taken a great deal of interest in the county. I taught there twenty or thirty years, and I've done some writing on African-American history in Buckingham. I'm about to publish a new version of a book I wrote thirty years ago on Buckingham African-Americans. When we first heard about Union Hill becoming a historic site I was approached by several fellow Buckingham citizens. One asked me how can it be a historic site if there's not a tourist attraction? I told him that there is a lot of historic sites that are not tourist attractions. Many people in Buckingham know that the Civil War ended in Appomattox, but they don't know negotiations began in Buckingham the night before Lee surrendered. That's not a tourist attraction. So, there are a lot of true historic places that are not necessarily tourist attractions.

Now, the project about this pipeline, which some of my neighbors have coming right through their yard, and new homes, which people moved there from other places such as New York; one from California, he's here today. It was mentioned about cemeteries. About five miles from my home I'd heard about a large slave cemetery and no one could tell me exactly where it was. Finally I found it! My brother and I got involved in it. I began to visit some of these cemeteries, and they are heart-wrenching sites. Row after row of sunken graves only marked by a small stone. Only two I've seen have any kind of a tombstone. What I found out was something very interesting. Here is a map done by the Buckingham Historical Society. These pink marks are mostly large farms and plantations, and those red dots are all slave cemeteries, some with two or three or four hundred graves. The one in the Union Hill neighborhood, go to that slave cemetery, it's just row after row of graves unmarked; but, if you're going to the people who own the cemetery then you see names. If you look at some slave plantation records from the University of Virginia you see the names connected to these plantations. The surnames of all these people are the surnames of the African-American people right from the neighborhood. That is part of the concern.

Buckingham is a very beautiful place. The pipeline has caused a lot of concerns. People worried about water, land, and property values destruction. As I mentioned some of these people have pipelines going through their front yards and so that is a concern, and if you'd like to come take a look at this please do.