**Gillespie, Maries - Public Health**

Good afternoon. My name is Marie Gillespie, and I along with my husband Cylus are residents, landowners, and homeowners in Buckingham County; one of the most beautiful, peaceful, tranquil and friendly places in the United States. Our home is less than a mile from the proposed compressor station and portions of the pipeline are set to be running underneath my driveway. Isn’t that interesting? I also asked, how do I get to my house since you're going take up my driveway?

We relocated here from a metropolis 20 years ago after vacationing and visiting relatives here over the years, and we were drawn by the pristine environment, the relaxing atmosphere, clean air and the refreshing water. I have a daughter and a granddaughter who both suffer with respiratory ailments, so it has been fortunate that they are able to come here and have some relief for a few days because of the quality of air that we presently are enjoying. In September of 2014 we were notified by the Dominion gas company and Atlantic coast pipeline that they were interested in securing a portion of our property for a new pipeline. In addition, a compressor station was to be built nearby, across the road, changing the landscape to a huge commercial power plant operated 24/7. After some research I also discovered the hazards of a compressor station, the negative effects on air, water, and soil, and I was against that my paradise was soon to be involved without any of my say-so, limited notification and seemingly no concern for the health and well-being of my family and self.

I know that there might be some economic benefit to our county, but more concerned about the quality of life of the significant number of residents, mostly African-American and low-income, which make up the Union Hill community, and which would be greatly compromised. I'm concerned about the fact that presently we have a number of elderly and several residents with chronic illnesses that will only be aggravated by the noise, the gas emissions and other factors associated with the compressor station. Many years ago, my college health education professor helped us understand that health is the quality of one's reaction to life situations. Well, the Union Hill and Sheldon store roads community is entering an unhealthy phase of life already, even before any construction has begun. Neighbors are experiencing sleepless nights, headaches, elevated blood pressure and depression. One neighbor has even been hesitant about leaving her home for a long period of time for fear that when she returned construction or destruction of her property will be taking place.

The problems exhibited by me and the other dozens in the community are small measures to that which we understand will occur if the compressor station is built in our front and backyards. Compressor stations of this scope and size are known to discharge high amounts

of toxic emissions including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and hazardous pollutants such as formaldehyde. There are questions regarding the proposed facilities potential to admit reliability of emission data when emissions would be occurring, and how intense they would be given the change in size from 31,000 horsepower to 40,000. The extreme proximity to not one but two churches, and the potential of the applicant

to add more units in the future to expand the pipeline and the compressor station, brings terror to our hearts and to our minds, and we deserve the opportunity to speak out and to be heard by both our state and local government bodies. So, I'd like to thank this tribunal of organizers, especially Lakshmi, for convening this event so our words can go on record. Once again reports from other states, New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio indicate that residents near the compressor stations suffer from headaches, nosebleeds, nausea, body rashes and chronic respiratory illnesses after blow downs from the compressions. A report released in February of 2013 by the RAND Corporation estimated the cost of Health and Environment in Pennsylvania from 7.2 million to 32 million in 2013, with up to 75 percent of it related to compressor stations.

In addition to the concerns for our health, we're also worried about the economic devaluation of our homes because of its proximity to the planned compressor stations and pipeline. This is a major minority community with limited resources, and with a limited voice, and a heritage that is being denied. How can I, my family and neighbors look to a lifetime of good health when we will be subjected to the emissions of methane, nitrous oxide and other gases from their proposed compressor stations, and perhaps even the pipeline? Why have my dreams and right to clean air and quiet been taken away? Have we a made terrible mistake in choosing to spend our golden years in Buckingham County? Our reaction to this situation has already compromised health in a negative manner, what's next? If the compressor station is built in our front yard instead of some isolated forest we are sure to experience poor health illness, mental anguish and even premature death. Scope failed to schedule meetings in Buckingham County, but the county with a large amount of pipeline is scheduled to be, as well as a proposed compressor station. It's been a hardship for us to drive to Nelson and further, so again we thank this tribunal and I look forward to seeing a summary of today's event, and the impact that you have on the pipeline and the compressor station stakeholders. Paraphrasing Langston Hughes “I too am Buckingham just because we are rural, black and economically depressed we should not be discarded. Our forefathers and our grandmothers worked the land, built the community, layed down our morals and values. I too am Buckingham and will not sit by the kitchen door.”