

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

DOCKET NUMBER 8596

PETITIONS OF LINCOLN RENEWABLE GAS, LLC ("LINCOLN
RNG") PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A. SECTIONS 231 AND 248(j)
SEEKING APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
OF A RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS FACILITY IN SALISBURY,
VERMONT

February 22, 2016
7 p.m.

286 Kelly Cross Road
Salisbury, Vermont

Public Hearing held before the Vermont Public
Service Board, at the Salisbury Community School, 286
Kelly Cross Road, Salisbury, Vermont, on February 22,
2016, beginning at 7 p.m.

P R E S E N T

BOARD MEMBERS: James Volz, Chairman
 Margaret Cheney
 Sarah Hofmann

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1 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: This is a hearing in
2 Public Service Board Docket Number 8596 which is the
3 petition of Lincoln Renewable Natural Gas, LLC
4 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 248(j) seeking approval
5 for the construction and operation of a renewable
6 natural gas facility in Salisbury, Vermont.

7 My name is Jim Volz. I'm the Chair of
8 the Public Service Board. With me to my right is
9 Margaret Cheney. She's one of the Board Members. To
10 my left is Sarah Hofmann. She's the other Board
11 Member. We have a staff person here plus the court
12 reporter.

13 So what we would like to do tonight is
14 hear from the public. That's the point of this, and
15 so if you wanted to speak you should sign up and
16 we'll just go through the list and hear what people
17 have to say about the project, and once we have gone
18 through and heard from everybody that will be the
19 entirety of the hearing.

20 So why don't we get started. The first
21 person on the list was Bill Fifield. If you would
22 like to speak, if you could come up to the podium.

23 MR. FIFIELD: So do I speak directly to
24 you?

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Speak to us. If they

1 have trouble hearing, we'll reconfigure a little bit
2 so they can hear too.

3 MR. FIFIELD: I'm Bill Fifield from
4 Bridport and I stand tonight in support of the
5 digester project. Some of you may have heard me
6 testify a couple of years ago in opposition to the
7 Vermont Gas Addison/Middlebury pipeline project which
8 would transmit fracked gas from Colchester to
9 Middlebury serving other towns along the route. I
10 did and still do oppose this project for a number of
11 reasons. It involves the use of fracked gas and the
12 process of fracking pollutes groundwater. The
13 fracking fluid which is proprietary is known to
14 contain chemicals which are carcinogenic. Fracking
15 can increase the risk of earthquakes. It's banned in
16 Vermont so the use of fracked gas in our state seems
17 hypocritical.

18 The methane extracted from the ground
19 can and does leak from the well heads and pumping
20 stations, and over the short term is 80 times as
21 potent of greenhouse gas as carbon dioxide and
22 contributes significantly to global warming and
23 climate change. The pipeline will lock in an
24 increasingly obsolete source of energy for many
25 decades, not to mention the fact that the cost of

1 phase one has gone up from -- 78 percent from the
2 initial proposal.

3 So tonight I speak in favor of the
4 digester project which produces methane from manure
5 and food waste products. Why am I doing this? Am I
6 speaking out of both sides of my mouth? Not at all.
7 Vermont Gas has correctly stated that methane burns
8 cleaner than other fuels such as oil and certainly
9 than coal. It is the mining and long distance
10 transmission of methane that really poses the risk
11 rather than the burning of extracted methane, and
12 although methane is methane whether extracted from
13 the earth or produced in a digester, over the short
14 term use of this gas produced from moist products is
15 a responsible way to help meet our energy needs. It
16 helps to dispose of otherwise unwanted waste, keeps
17 hydrocarbon based fossil fuels in the ground, and
18 helps to mitigate the effects of global warming. In
19 my view it is a win/win for everyone involved. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. I would like
22 to hear from Chase Goodrich.

23 MR. CHASE GOODRICH: Good evening. My
24 name is Chase Goodrich and tonight I'm going to be
25 speaking on behalf of the Goodrich Family Farm and

1 its members; my father, Ernest Goodrich, my mother
2 Leanne Goodrich, my sister Danielle Gingras, her
3 husband Jason Gingras, and my wife Erin Goodrich.

4 I would first like to give the Board a
5 brief history on the Goodrich Family Farm and its
6 roots in the West Salisbury Community. In the early
7 1900's my great grandparents, Wilbur and Hazel
8 Goodrich, began farming and raising their family on
9 Shard Villa Road. They raised six children and
10 provided for the family by farming cows, chickens,
11 and pigs. When Wilbur passed away at 65 Hazel and
12 her son Donald continued to operate the farm.

13 In 1956 my grandfather, Donald, better
14 known as the Chief, and my grandmother Mildred
15 purchased the farm just north of Chief's childhood
16 home on Shard Villa Road. My grandfather began
17 milking seven holstein cows and the original tie
18 stall blue barn still stands on the farm's home
19 location.

20 As Chief continued farming and raising
21 his family he grew the operation, and in 1975 he was
22 joined by his son Ernie Goodrich. Over the years
23 Chief and Ernie farmed the land in Salisbury, and
24 with the help of Ernie's sister Debbie the farm grew.
25 It grew to provide for the families joining the

1 family farm and it adapted to changes in the
2 agricultural landscape. The farm was continuously
3 evolving. One way the farm kept evolving was Chief
4 was always setting new goals and benchmarks for the
5 farm. One of those goals, a goal that has been a
6 stone in the farm's foundation all the way into the
7 present, was to provide an opportunity for future
8 generations to return to the farm and continue on the
9 Goodrich tradition of farming and raising their
10 families in Salisbury.

11 So in 2009 my sister and I were blessed
12 with the opportunity to fulfill Chief's goal. We
13 returned as the third generation to the farm. I know
14 I speak for my sister when I say it was truly a
15 blessing to not only spend our childhood raised on a
16 farm, but to grow into adults and continue life's
17 journey at home on the farm.

18 Danielle, Jason, Erin, and I are a
19 hundred percent committed to not only farming the
20 land to provide for our families, but also committed
21 to its sustainability so not only can our children
22 have the opportunity to be raised on a farm, but also
23 return and raise their children on this ground if
24 they choose to do so.

25 The completion of the digester project

1 is essential because it helps the farm establish
2 sustainability needed to accomplish the farm's goals.
3 We are urging the Board to pass this project and help
4 us to stay in agriculture in this community.
5 Agriculture is deeply rooted in this neighborhood and
6 the Goodrich Family Farm has been farming on the land
7 on Shard Villa Road for nearly a hundred years.

8 Please help us to continue on with that
9 tradition. Help us preserve the beauty of the land,
10 the farm life, and everything it has to offer. This
11 farm gives back to the community in so many ways. It
12 helps support the local economy dependent upon
13 agriculture, it supports the community with its
14 natural beauty and openness which is often enjoyed by
15 neighbors whether it be a bicycle ride around the
16 block, a walk with children, or a tour down an old
17 farm road. Help us keep agriculture in Salisbury.

18 The digester is a positive change both
19 on the farm, in the agricultural industry, as well as
20 progressive toward a commitment to renewable energy.
21 It is positive manure management and it strongly
22 co-exists with the future of farming.

23 In the spring and summer of 2013 we held
24 several public meetings to educate the community on
25 this project. They were advertised in public forums

1 and well attended. We also attended discussions at
2 neighbors' home. We listened to the community's
3 concern, we answered their questions, we accepted
4 suggestions, and we even shaped the model of this
5 project to best fit the community based on those
6 meetings.

7 We have been at this project now for a
8 very long time. Without being said it is crucial
9 that we finally are able to break ground in the
10 spring. I plead with the Board to please carefully
11 examine all the positive impacts this project will
12 provide. Accept this project and allow us to
13 continue this journey in April. Thank you very much
14 and please feel free to have and ask any questions.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Next we
16 would like to hear from Dean Rheaume.

17 MR. RHEAUME: Dean Rheaume. I'm a
18 resident of Middlebury. We also own some land in
19 Salisbury and I work for the Town of Middlebury in
20 the wastewater industry. I've got a little bit of
21 experience and knowledge of digestion and the
22 technology. I work quite a lot with the College and
23 work quite a lot with Vermont Gas on their
24 distribution end through the profession with the
25 town.

1 I think one thing that really stands out
2 with this project for me is merit of the project. I
3 know there's a lot of emotions regarding the Rutland
4 natural gas line, but I think it's important that you
5 look at this project separately. The renewable part
6 is very important. There's portions that are
7 intermingled, but it gives -- it gives a lot to the
8 local farmers. It gives options to residents. I
9 know it brings an option closer to me and my business
10 if I want to go to renewable fuel, and like I say two
11 different projects.

12 So the emotions are strong both ways,
13 but I just would like everybody to look at this as a
14 project in itself. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Ed Peet.

16 MR. PEET: I'm from the Town of Cornwall
17 and I showed up on the adjoining landowners' list
18 because I own land basically across Otter Creek from
19 this farm, and I'm very much in favor of the project.

20 If you look at Title 24 4495, you'll see
21 the exception, agriculture practices that the Vermont
22 Department of Agriculture wants us farmers to engage
23 in, and I am one of the farmers in that I own a farm
24 that milks 400 cows. They want the manure handled in
25 an environmentally sound manner and this project

1 basically advances that in that direction, and
2 therefore I'm very much in favor of it being so.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Tom Corbin.

5 MR. CORBIN: I'm Tom Corbin. I'm the
6 Director of Business Services for Middlebury College.
7 I'm here tonight to speak for the college. The
8 college will purchase the vast majority of the gas
9 from this project and the college has made a
10 commitment to be carbon neutral by the end of 2016.
11 Most of our carbon footprint is from space heating of
12 the campus. Cooling in the summer and domestic hot
13 water. We currently operate a multi-fuel plant. We
14 moved away from about half of our oil to wood chips a
15 few years ago and that's working well. This past
16 summer we converted all of our other boilers to be
17 multi-fuel so that they can burn natural gas, number
18 two oil, kerosene, or number six which is what we
19 currently do. This project and its completion this
20 year is vital to us making our goal of being carbon
21 neutral.

22 The project will bring energy dollars
23 back into the Vermont economy as has our wood chip
24 plant. Using the pipeline to move the gas reduces
25 the carbon footprint. Otherwise, we would be running

1 two trucks to do that. We are encouraged by Dan's
2 plan to look into the removal of phosphorous once the
3 gas plant is up and operating and taking the rest of
4 the effluent, and we think that will be a good
5 project for our students to get involved with as well
6 as better for the watershed into Lake Champlain.

7 So we respectfully ask that you move
8 this project approval as soon as you can so that we
9 can get in the ground this year and get the plant up
10 and running and certified by the end of the year.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jonathan
13 Chamberlain.

14 MR. CHAMBERLIN: My name's Jonathan
15 Chamberlain. I live in Addison, Vermont. Basically
16 I would like to show my support for this project. In
17 my profession I'm a certified crop advisor. So for
18 me this project is not only a renewable energy
19 project, but also a nutrient project. It will
20 increase the availability of the nutrients that come
21 from their manure. It will better utilize their
22 crops. The manure that they will apply to their land
23 will become more available. It will react faster to
24 increased crop yields, and also with this product
25 reuse -- the process of reutilizing their manure for

1 bedding is a major emphasis on the nutrient balance
2 of the whole farm, basically decreasing what comes in
3 which allows them to allocate more of it to their
4 land base, and just on a side note I am a neighbor of
5 a digester. I have a digester a mile and a half
6 south of me, five miles north of me, and I do believe
7 they increase the quality of life as a neighbor.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Maurice -- I
9 can't read the last.

10 MR. QUENNEVILLE: Quenneville.

11 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you.

12 MR. QUENNEVILLE: I asked a friend of
13 mine to look up a few things on digesters in the feed
14 industry and he came up with a study that was done in
15 2010 by Cornell University. Seven New York State
16 dairy farms that went under this digester, and with
17 the seven dairy farms they were able to remove the
18 carbon footprint of the equivalent of 7,775 cars.
19 They go on to say that if you were to take 500,000
20 farms in New York -- or 500,000 cows in New York that
21 are capable of sustaining digesters, it would remove
22 215,500 cars of the carbon footprint, and the Natural
23 Resource Defense Council also did a report and they
24 claim that to take the 8,000 U.S. farms that could
25 support a biogas recovery system it would take the

1 equivalent of taking 6.5 million cars off the road.

2 I don't see how we can not support this.

3 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Chris
4 Goodrich.

5 MR. CHRIS GOODRICH: Thank you for
6 coming down here tonight. I would like to speak in
7 support of this project from a variety of
8 standpoints. First a disclaimer. As you may have
9 guessed from my name I am a relative of the
10 applicant. I grew up nearby and worked and played
11 many hours on this farm as did my father and my
12 grandfather. Every time I visit my dad he asks me
13 about progress on this project. His brother,
14 formerly referred to as Chief here, hoped to see it
15 completed before he died and at this point I'm hoping
16 that my dad lives to see this completed.

17 Secondly, I would like to address this
18 as an employee of Middlebury College. I'm very proud
19 of their efforts to power the school using renewable
20 energy and for being a pioneer in this innovative
21 project. This type of philosophy attracts many
22 talented students from all over the world, and a
23 successful college provides many well paying jobs in
24 this community, including mine.

25 Third, as someone who owns adjoining

1 property it is reassuring to see the increased
2 viability that this project will bring to the farm.
3 Keeping all those beautiful fields around me open and
4 free of housing developments that would depreciate
5 the value of my lot. I also see the benefits of
6 replacing field vehicles with more professional and
7 quieter road trucks. I do fondly remember how
8 farming was done half a century ago, but I appreciate
9 the evolution of methods that have kept these same
10 farms profitable today.

11 Fourth, as an environmentalist it's easy
12 to see how capturing the methane that is released
13 from the manure is better for the planet than letting
14 it disburse from where it drops. It doesn't hurt
15 that it also is better for our noses. The methane
16 produced by cows will either go directly into the
17 atmosphere or we can collect it and use its energy.

18 And, finally, as a Vermonter I would
19 like to see this project completed as a model that
20 could enable other farms around the state to help us
21 reduce our outflow of dollars to places that produce
22 fossil fuels while maintaining open lands that are so
23 important for our tourism industry. The
24 infrastructure currently being built by Vermont Gas
25 may be designed to bring fossil fuels into the state,

1 but what if some day it was used to export green
2 energy.

3 My dad is 94 now. Any chances we can
4 wrap this up soon?

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Jackie
6 Devoid.

7 MS. DEVOID: My name is Jackie Devoid.
8 I live here in Salisbury. I guess my first thoughts
9 on this what a difficult job farming is and how they
10 have enforced -- farmers have been forced to
11 diversity and do a lot of things that they never
12 planned on doing just to keep their farms floating.
13 A lot of education, a lot of time, and the whole time
14 in the back of their mind is the community they live
15 in, the neighbors that they live with. They have
16 children that are running down the roads. They have
17 everybody that they love is in this community, and
18 the last thing they want to do is to do anything that
19 would take -- make that quality of life lower.

20 I think this is a really good project.
21 There's a lot of good things about it. There's a
22 couple of things that are kind of iffy when you get
23 to the other end of it, the actual gas going through
24 the pipes and everything, but I want to focus on the
25 other part, the farming part. 3,000 acres is a lot

1 of land and that's what -- approximately what the
2 Goodrichs acquired over the years, and they have done
3 that in order to be able to maintain their farm,
4 support the extended family members, and community
5 members that worked with them. If that -- if they
6 couldn't keep their farm viable by doing these kinds
7 of things, by diversifying and helping themselves get
8 through this with the prices they have to sustain and
9 live with, that 3,000 acres could be up for grabs and
10 I really don't want to see what would happen if that
11 3,000 acres wasn't farm any more.

12 The project itself with the manure
13 handling a lot of people have concerns over more
14 odors, less odors. I truly -- the projects I've seen
15 there isn't any odor. There's no odor compared to
16 what the ponds that get stirred over and over and
17 over again in the spring when they have to spread an
18 entire winter's worth of manure on the available
19 land. Instead of being able to spread it very thinly
20 and nicely throughout the year they have to spread it
21 so deep. Gosh forbid there's any kind of a heavy
22 rain or storm that comes up because that's all just
23 flying off the land. That's not sinking in.

24 This kind of a project takes -- it's
25 such a liquid byproduct that comes off the manure

1 without odor, very, very low odor, seeps into the
2 ground so much easier. You don't have that god awful
3 buildup everybody smells for weeks and weeks and
4 weeks. The bedding that they use that is available
5 to them afterwards, first of all, there's a lot of
6 it. They can bed their cows that much thicker and
7 the cows' health is that much better because it's so
8 much a sterile product available that the health of
9 the cows; mastitis, everything decreases as far as
10 any of that bacteria.

11 The manure that people face traveling
12 down the road after the lands have been spread on
13 from the tires on the tractors it's horrible. They
14 can't help it. They are out on these lands that they
15 are spreading six inches deep now because everything
16 has been hanging around for the winter. Their tires
17 are covered. They are driving down the roads and the
18 neighbors are complaining that the honey wagons are
19 out. That won't be a problem when something like
20 this comes along. The tanks that are going to be
21 supplying their farm with supplemental manure are
22 enclosed. The connections between the tanks and the
23 digester itself are enclosed. I'm sure there's going
24 to be some kind of an odor at one point or another
25 here, there, but it's not going to be anything like

1 everybody has had to endure previously.

2 Just from that aspect I'm very, very
3 much in support of this for the farmers in general.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Harold
6 Nisun.

7 MR. NISUN: I'm Harold Nisun and I'm the
8 accountant for the family, Goodrich family, and I've
9 been the accountant since, as Chase would say, his
10 grandfather Chief hired me and that was 20, 25 years
11 ago. I also grew up working on the farm. I had the
12 opportunity to know the family since I was a young
13 man and I know it's always been their goal to pass
14 this farm on to the next generation.

15 What I would really like to speak about
16 is the economic benefits to this project for the farm
17 and some neighboring farms because besides the
18 Goodrich farm I believe the Nopp's farm and some
19 other farms are going to benefit from this project.
20 Part of it is the manure management. It's been
21 spoken of earlier. That saves money. You have the
22 phosphorus. You have nutrients. What you can get
23 from this project will save you money with that.
24 Bedding that's a savings there too.

25 So I believe that this project is a good

1 economic generator for the community besides helping
2 the environment. I do believe Dan's going to hire
3 people. He's going to, you know, pay sales taxes.
4 They are just going to create some project. That's
5 what Vermont needs is something like this to keep
6 agriculture sustainable in the state. So thank you
7 very much for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Paul Vaczy.

9 MR. VACZY: Hi. I'm Paul Vaczy. I am a
10 supporter of this project and I'm a supporter of
11 renewable energy and I just wanted to speak to that
12 effect. I think keeping our farms able to diversity
13 and keep them viable is very important for our state
14 and for our community, and for that -- those reasons
15 I support this project.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Dr. Drexel
17 Wheeler.

18 DR. WHEELER: Yes. My name is Dr.
19 Drexel Wheeler. I am a veterinarian here in Addison
20 County, a member of Valleywide Veterinary Service.
21 We do the majority of farms in Addison County. I am
22 the herd veterinarian for Goodrich Farms. I just
23 wanted to speak to assure the public and the Board
24 the Goodrich farm is one of the top dairies in the
25 county. They have excellent cow health. They have

1 excellent cow welfare, and they produce one of the
2 top quality milk in the county. They have a very low
3 somatic cell. That is a measure of milk quality, and
4 I am in full support of this project because I think
5 it helps farms today who are struggling with low milk
6 prices presently, and in a cycling nature it helps
7 them to move along and helps them with their income
8 and provides them to be able to continue to farm here
9 in Addison County.

10 We need farms in Addison County. It is
11 the largest business in Addison County and I support
12 this project. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Brian
14 Carpenter.

15 MR. CARPENTER: Hi. I'm Brian
16 Carpenter. I'm General Manager of the Champlain
17 Valley Equipment. We're a farm equipment dealership.
18 We deal with a lot of farms throughout the state.
19 Many of our farms have already had a project to take
20 methane gas out of the manure. It's a logical and
21 intelligent progression of farm practices. The
22 farmers benefit because they are challenged in
23 nutrient management and to manage the runoff, and
24 that's just going to get more and more difficult
25 within the State of Vermont. It helps them be better

1 neighbors.

2 I heard people speak to the scent factor
3 and there's less retained manure on the farm.
4 There's many uses for the byproduct. The community
5 benefits from receiving renewable energy and Vermont
6 benefits by better meeting environmental standards
7 and curbing runoff while helping to sustain our
8 working landscape.

9 I also am a member of the Middlebury
10 Selectboard and I believe you have a letter of
11 support on file from Middlebury. Our college would
12 also benefit from this project, and we feel it's a
13 smart project for the local community.

14 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Randy
15 Quesnel, Jr.

16 MR. QUESNEL: Hi. My name is Randall
17 Quesnel, Jr. I operate a hundred cow organic dairy
18 just south of the Goodrich farm. For me this
19 project, being an organic farmer, sustainable is a
20 huge buzz word and eco friendly, and as a young
21 farmer being on Otter Creek I'm involved with a
22 number of projects with NRCS for conservation
23 purposes.

24 We've all read in the news about the EPA
25 and the phosphorus in the lake and St. Albans Bay and

1 everything. This seems like a no brainer project to
2 me. The more manure and nutrients that we get, you
3 know, sequestered off the land the less will be in
4 the lake. I don't understand why we don't have more
5 of these projects.

6 The European Union there's digesters all
7 over. You know we're drilling for gas. We're not
8 fracking for gas. It's a renewable resource. We
9 have so much of it I don't know why we're not doing
10 more of it. So I'm a strong supporter of this
11 project.

12 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Barrie
13 Bailey.

14 MS. BAILEY: I know the Board has seen
15 me at many technical hearings and Public Service
16 Board hearings against the fracked gas pipeline, but
17 I'm here tonight to say that I support this project.
18 Like Randy, I too want to see lots more of these
19 around the county. I have a poster, but it's sort of
20 small. It says biogas equals climate solution, but
21 co-mingled gas equals -- is a global warming driver.
22 That's one of the things I want to talk about
23 tonight.

24 Digesters don't need to be hooked up to
25 fracked gas pipelines. This one happens to be that

1 way and I'm very sad about that, but I think it's
2 still a very important project because if this
3 becomes viable on a larger scale than the small ones
4 such as are on the James Martin dairy that just takes
5 care of their needs, this will take care of a lot
6 more people's needs.

7 More renewable gas. People talk about
8 the phosphorus. I've spoken with Dan Smith and he
9 said that right now it's not commercially available,
10 but within a year or so there's going to be an
11 available process for phosphorus to be taken off this
12 biodigester and used so that it can be like a compost
13 or fertilizer rather than St. Albans where the
14 phosphorus is taken off, made into a cake, and dumped
15 in the landfill. So it's still back in the
16 watershed. So I appreciate Dan Smith's attention to
17 details like this.

18 The other big thing to me is the
19 spreading of the manure. First of all, there won't
20 be the smell because this project takes out that
21 hydrogen sulfide gas. You're not going to have a
22 rotten egg smell all over the place, and then because
23 it's a liquid form that's going to be returned to the
24 farm after this process is done it can be injected a
25 little ways into the soil. So the first time a big

1 snowstorm comes after April 1st it doesn't wash the
2 manure into the creek, and if you look at the river
3 watch data, our creek here along where the farms are
4 all along, you know, from Rutland on up through it's
5 the manure is a phosphorus problem. So this is just
6 another really positive solution.

7 But my final thing is climate change.
8 It's accelerating far faster than scientists ever
9 thought would happen as now the Antarctic west shelf
10 is caving in and as things accelerate this is one
11 answer. We don't have to have fracked gas. I would
12 love to see a town like Shoreham not connected to the
13 gas pipeline have one of these and take care of maybe
14 half their town with this. So I encourage you to
15 approve this. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Deborah
17 Hurlburt.

18 MS. HURLBURT: Yes. Thank you. First I
19 would like to say I'm not opposed to this project.
20 I'm undecided at this point. I guess we're hoping
21 for the best, but the main concern I have is a
22 potential sulfur smell. The potential of increased
23 traffic.

24 I abut the property. I'm right down the
25 road from the Goodrich farm. Beyond the manure and

1 the corn input this is bringing there's potential
2 other food waste that's coming in. I'm not quite
3 sure what that is.

4 So my concern is primarily making sure
5 that we are going to be okay. That there's not going
6 to be an impact on the neighbors for things like
7 that. I do support environmental issues highly. I
8 support this. I want our valuations to be protected.
9 I want to make sure that if there's something that
10 happens that we are not left with no recourse.

11 So again I support the environmental
12 aspect. I just want to make sure that its condition
13 is such that we're not affected negatively. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Heidi
16 Willis.

17 MS. WILLIS: I'm Heidi Willis and I live
18 about two miles or so north of the main Goodrich farm
19 though my little seven-eighths of an acre is
20 completely surrounded by Goodrich farmland. I'm one
21 of those people that right now plan when I do my
22 laundry and to hang it out to dry, and if they have
23 just spread manure I don't do the laundry which is
24 not a big deal, but I want to speak in support of
25 this project from a variety of aspects. It keeps --

1 we need to change our energy sources. Climate change
2 is a major concern of mine, and the more local the
3 energy the better. This is definitely a locally
4 sourced kind of energy. It's not traveling long
5 distances and it's not fracked. In fact, I'm
6 understanding that perhaps the pipeline will go by my
7 house and I may be able to benefit from some of that
8 gas.

9 I'm also very interested -- I'm also
10 interested in supporting farms in Vermont and I think
11 this is a win/win for farms. They can make better
12 use of a byproduct from cows. Bedding. And as a
13 person whose been involved in water quality issues
14 with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative for
15 20 years or so, I think it's a very -- very much of a
16 positive impact on water quality, and that the
17 residue that will be spread on the fields will be
18 taken in by the fields far better than the manure as
19 other people have addressed here.

20 So we -- there's no perfect -- there's
21 not going to be any perfect scenario for our energy
22 any more. We don't have any easy choices, and I
23 think there are many win/wins in this situation and
24 would offer my support for the project.

25 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Chris

1 Heudorfer.

2 MS. HEUDORFER: Thank you. Good
3 evening. Everybody has their point of view and I as
4 an outsider in here only 30 years coming from New
5 York City this is by far the most beautiful place to
6 live. The air is good even when I can't put my
7 laundry out. It's a wonderful place to live, and if
8 we don't help support the existing farms now, Vermont
9 is not going to be that beautiful green place to come
10 to.

11 I wholeheartedly support this. I myself
12 and my husband were farmers not probably way back
13 farmers, but we did and I love the land, and if you
14 don't keep it open you're not going to have the
15 beautiful place to live, the tourism that supports a
16 good portion of the economy of this state, and you
17 won't have third, fourth, fifth generations of people
18 working on the land. So please support this project.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Susan
21 Quesnel.

22 MS. QUESNEL: Hi. Thank you. My name
23 is Susan Quesnel. I'm a neighbor and down the
24 street. I also married into coming into Salisbury
25 and have been here for quite a few years. I really

1 feel like Salisbury is an unique community with its
2 beautiful lands and the farming aspect. You know all
3 about the, you know, global warming and all the
4 things everybody spoke to so I won't speak to those,
5 but I think it's really important that everybody
6 appreciates when they go down to see these beautiful
7 fields, but they don't always appreciate the efforts
8 and expense that go into providing us the benefits of
9 seeing those and being around them.

10 The Goodrich family have been an awesome
11 neighbor to many people. If there's storms, you
12 know, when we have had storms people have been pulled
13 out by farmers. You know they have snow they have
14 helped with people when they are stuck. You can
15 always rely on a farmer to help you out when you're
16 in time of need with their equipment, things like
17 that. They are very, very generous.

18 I think it's really important that we
19 keep this land open. I think that they have gone
20 through and I have sat through meetings, a lot of us
21 have, that they have been very open, very
22 forthcoming, very honest, and I don't feel they have
23 put up any road blocks as to feeling there's not a
24 way of communicating back and forth with them if
25 there's an issue.

1 I really would like to keep Salisbury a
2 very special town that we're all very proud of and
3 supportive of, and I'm very supportive of our
4 neighbors and trying to keep their farming going for
5 the next generations to come too. I hope you support
6 this project.

7 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Tad Powers.

8 MR. POWERS: My wife Priscilla and I
9 want to speak in favor of the project. We're not
10 going to repeat all of the good science and public
11 policy reasons that have been stated, but we agree
12 with them. We're not going to repeat some of the
13 concerns, but we have the same concerns, and I would
14 like to say just a word about those before I'm done,
15 but we live about three miles south of the farm. My
16 son and I have a law office there, and so some people
17 would say as lawyers we might deal in a little
18 different kind of manure, but nevertheless when we
19 look out to our north our neighbor is Ernie, and when
20 we look out to our south our neighbor is Ernie, and
21 when we look out to our west our neighbor is Ernie,
22 and when we look out to our east our neighbor is
23 Ernie, and so we're grateful and pleased to be
24 looking out at beautiful farmland on all sides and I
25 want to support Ernie in this project for a couple of

1 reasons.

2 First there's the science and the
3 economics that's been talked about, and I just want
4 to add to those a brief quote. This is the Economist
5 Magazine January 16th of 2016, coincidentally came
6 out a couple of weeks ago, and it mentioned the
7 phrases greenhouse gases and global warming in the
8 same breath. Most people think of carbon dioxide,
9 CO₂, is not the only greenhouse gas and fossil fuel
10 is not the only source of those gases. A surprising
11 and neglected one is the world's ruminant livestock.
12 They produce methane. A lot of methane. 100 million
13 tons of it a year for all the world's domesticated
14 ruminants, and methane is a greenhouse gas 25 times
15 more powerful than CO₂.

16 According to the New Zealand
17 Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Center methane
18 emitted from livestock is responsible for about 14
19 percent of total global warming since the beginning
20 of the industrial revolution. So this is no small
21 matter. We're talking renewable energy. We're
22 talking agricultural economics. We're talking
23 keeping Vermont a beautiful agrarian state, and we're
24 talking preserving our climate and our planet. So
25 those are all great reasons to support this project.

1 On the concern side, like Deborah, we
2 have, I'm sure all the neighbors have, concerns about
3 odors, have concerns about truck traffic. We trust
4 you folks to do a responsible job of working with
5 Ernie, with working with his consultants, his
6 engineers, to put conditions in place that will be a
7 reasonable balance between the needs of the project
8 and the welfare of the neighbors, but I can tell you
9 this because I have had Ernie on four sides of me
10 since we have been there. We make our living there.
11 We interact with Ernie a lot. If we have a problem,
12 if we have a concern, if we have a need, I can pick
13 up the phone and call Ernie and say there's a pothole
14 in the road on the barn driveway and can you guys
15 look at that and it gets fixed. Or if there's a
16 problem with anything going on around the farm I can
17 call Ernie and it gets fixed, and I know that's not
18 part of the legal criteria, but I think it's
19 important for you folks to understand that Ernie and
20 his family are good neighbors, and if there are
21 problems we're confident that we can talk about it
22 and it can get fixed without having it go through a
23 lot of legal manure. So thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. Bobbie
25 Carnwath.

1 MS. CARNWATH: I've stood before this
2 Board before to express my opposition to fracked gas.
3 I applaud the development of renewable fuel and this
4 digester project is a long-awaited example of a
5 creative and courageous solution of the kind that
6 people like me have been dreaming of. I'm excited
7 about the digester. However, when this product is
8 co-mingled with fracked gas that has been extracted
9 by a process that is so flawed that it's been
10 outlawed in this state, I see the project as nothing
11 more than a shell game to allow Middlebury College to
12 greenwash its use of fracked gas from Canada. This
13 project should be piping clean fuel directly to
14 consumers, companies, including Middlebury College,
15 without being dependent upon a foreign corporation
16 for distribution.

17 Let's build the project and carry it one
18 step further by keeping the product independent from
19 a fracked gas pipeline.

20 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. We've now
21 heard from everyone who signed up. Is there anyone
22 else who would like to speak before we conclude the
23 meeting? Yes.

24 MR. LAWTON: I'm Matt Lawton L-A-W-T-O-N
25 from Bridport. The only concern I really heard was

1 the truck traffic. I want to put some numbers to
2 that I guess.

3 Currently if you don't have a digester
4 you have to buy sawdust to bed the cows. I would
5 think a farm the size of the Goodrichs takes a
6 tractor trailer load a week. It has to be purchased
7 from somewhere in Canada, and then in the spring
8 that's that much more manure that needs to be hauled
9 out, and probably takes three large dump trucks to
10 haul that material away from the spring. So once a
11 week load comes in and in the spring another 150
12 loads have to go out. So there's 200 trips of truck
13 back and forth past the farm to handle that sawdust
14 as well.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: Thank you. One thing I
16 neglected to mention is that there are a couple of
17 representatives here from the Department of Public
18 Service and also from the Agency of Natural Resources
19 and I just want the record to reflect they were here
20 as well. If you had questions for them, I'm sure
21 they would be happy to talk to you after now that
22 this meeting is concluded.

23 I think we're -- unless somebody has
24 anything else they would like to add, I think we're
25 done for the evening and I want to thank everybody

1 for coming out. I thought this was a very well
2 attended and well conducted public hearing.

3 (Whereupon, the proceeding was
4 adjourned at 7:50 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JoAnn Q. Carson, do hereby certify that
I recorded by stenographic means the public hearing re:
Docket Number 8596 at the Salisbury Community School, 286
Kelly Cross Road, Salisbury, Vermont, on February 22,
2016, beginning at 7 p.m.

I further certify that the foregoing
testimony was taken by me stenographically and thereafter
reduced to typewriting, and the foregoing 35 pages are a
transcript of the stenograph notes taken by me of the
evidence and the proceedings, to the best of my ability.

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

Dated at Burlington, Vermont, this 24th day
of February, 2016.

JoAnn Q. Carson

Registered Merit Reporter

Certified Real Time Reporter