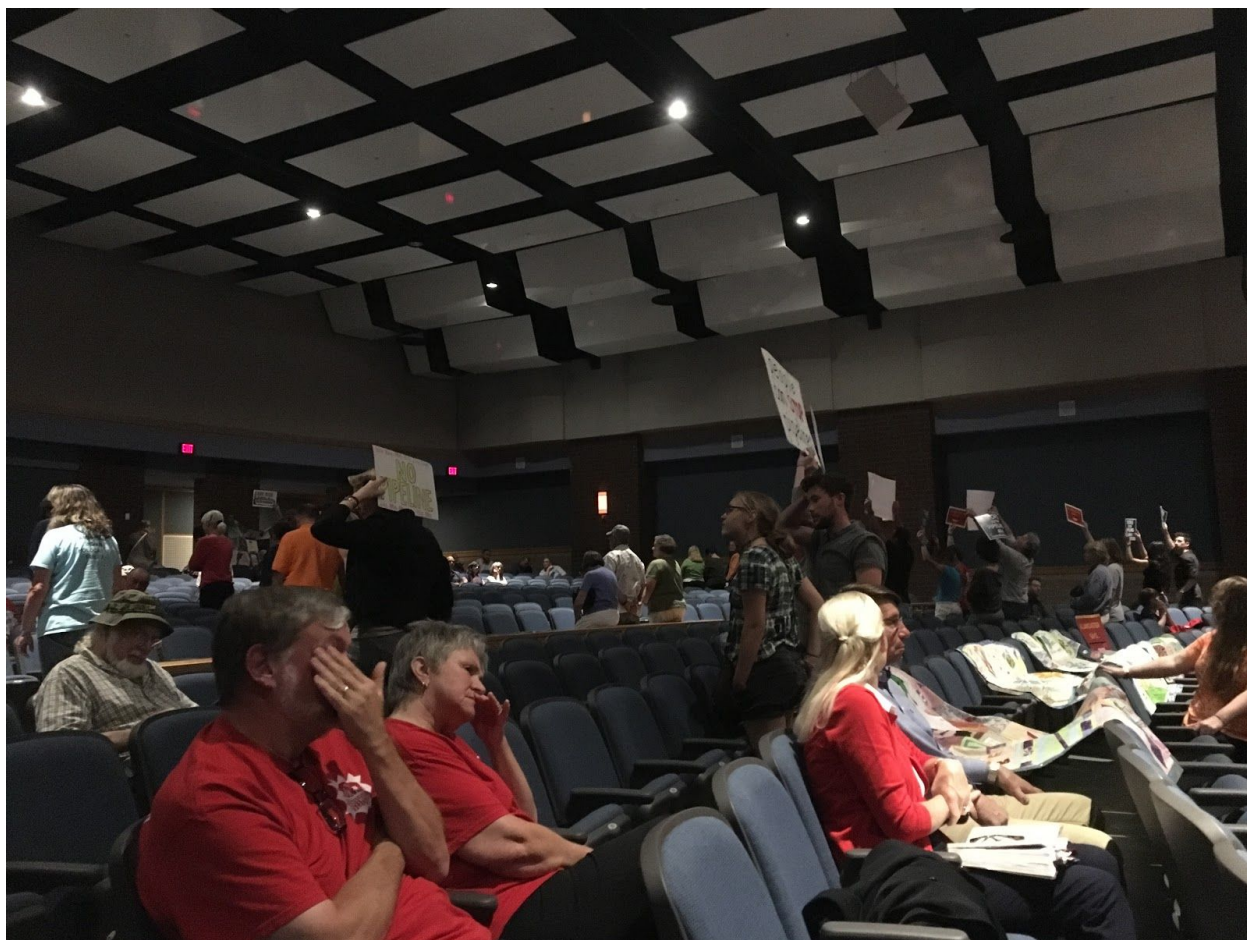


Staff report from Lancaster FERC Hearing on Atlantic Sunrise Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Prepared by Tom Torres, Conservation Program Coordinator, Sierra Club PA Chapter

June 13th, 2016, Lancaster, PA -- There were around 250 people in attendance at the Lancaster County hearing and the audience was almost entirely anti-pipeline with only about a dozen identified industry folks. Out of the sixty or so people that gave comment, all were against the pipeline except for four or five industry reps. Most of the early spots in Lancaster were reserved by anti-pipeline speakers, including the first spot, which went to LAP board member Tim Spiese. Spiese talked about the labor issue, strongly criticized FERC, and set the tone for the rest of the hearing.

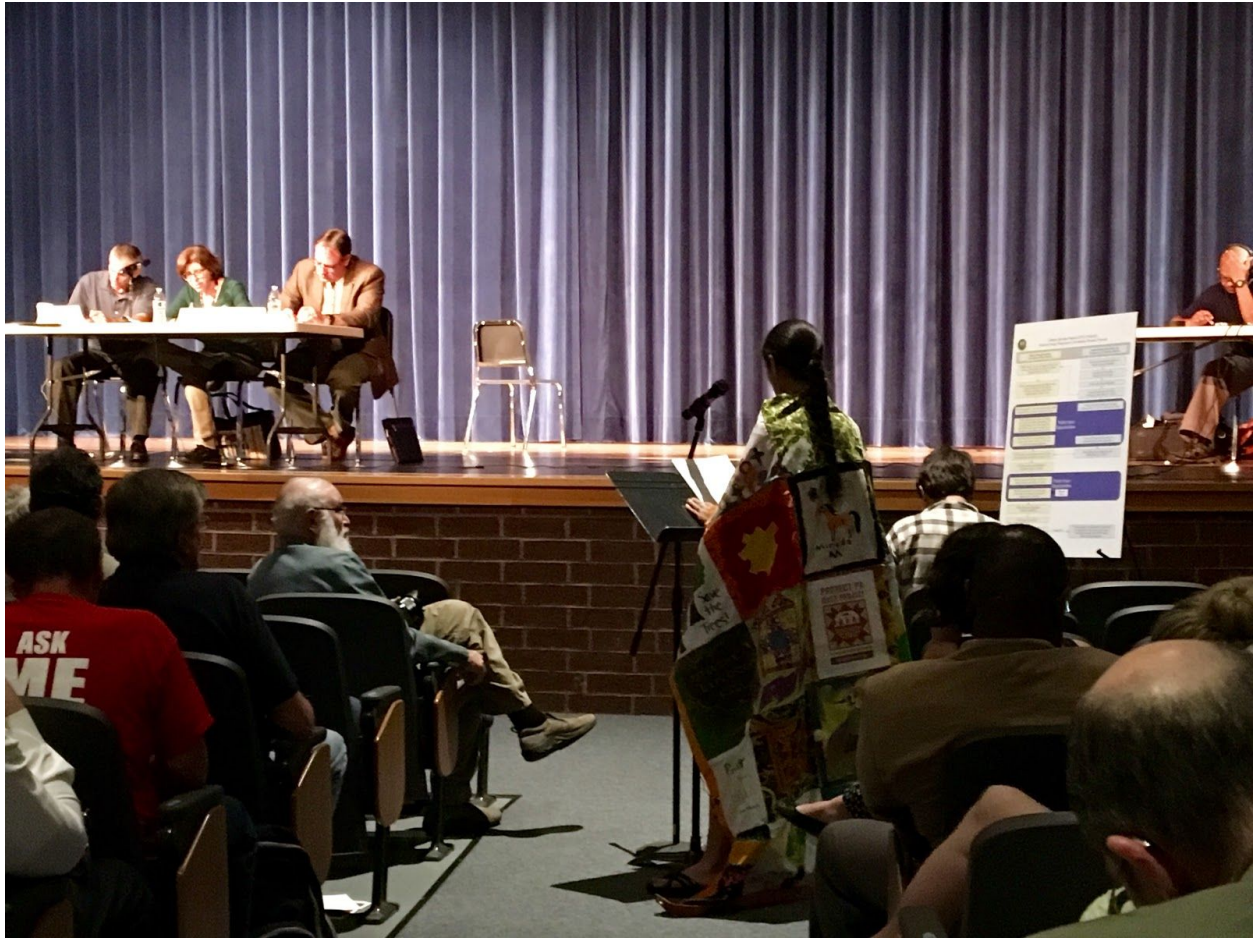
Given the number of pro-pipeline form letters that have come in over the last few weeks, I was expecting a bigger presence at this hearing. I later heard that the industry folks had a much larger presence at the hearing in Lebanon, likely as a result of being shut out of Lancaster. While there were ultimately 21 comments opposing the pipeline out of 34 total comments, the industry folks were already waiting at four o'clock to sign up for spots and reserved the first six speaking slots. There were also reports of live-person calls in the other counties from Williams.



Audience members held up signs or turned their backs to industry speakers.

Overall, the Lancaster hearing was very tense. There was one altercation between security and an audience member, two people were removed from the hearing, and the FERC representatives threatened to end the hearing early. One of the industry reps (rather boldly, considering the room) spoke about Williams as being

'trustworthy' and good for the community, which was quickly drowned out by the audience. At the end of every anti-pipeline comment, the speaker would state, "Lancaster County decides, not FERC, and Lancaster County says:" to which the audience responded, "NO."



Eva Telesco addressing FERC wrapped in [an anti-pipeline quilt square](#).

We had 41 members RSVP for the hearings -- 26 in Lancaster and the rest at the other three meetings in Lebanon, Columbia, and Luzerne. I talked to most of the people in Lancaster County and heard several of them give comments.

Press coverage:

[Critics call for further study of pipeline's impact in wild public meeting](#)

[Federal comment meeting on gas pipeline again unleashes strong sentiments in opposition](#)

[Atlantic Sunrise gas pipeline project: Public meeting in Lancaster](#)

[Federal regulators get earful from pipeline opponents](#)

[In war over pipelines, rules of engagement are far from settled](#)