On December 3, 2002 a meeting of the Marine Resources Commission was held with the following present:

William A. Pruitt  )  Commissioner
Chadwick Ballard, Jr. )
Gordon M. Birkett  )
Russell Garrison  )  Members of the Commission
Laura Belle Gordy  )
F. Wayne McLeskey  )

Carl Josephson  Assistant Attorney General
Wilford Kale  Senior Staff Adviser
Jean Moss  Recording Secretary

Col. Steve Bowman  Chief, Law Enforcement
Lt. Col. Lewis Jones  Deputy Chief, Law Enforcement

Robert Grabb  Chief, Habitat Management
Mark Eversole  Environmental Engineer Sr.
Jay Woodward  Environmental Engineer Sr.

others present included:

Tim Hayes  Richard Smith  Joly Mamoode
Ron Meadows  Ward Armstrong  Roscoe Reynolds
Deborah Buchanon  Greg Conner  Roger Martin
Paula Burnette  Margaret Aldridge  Darryl Holland
Jerry Hager  Alford Holland  Thomas Smith
Olan Horton  David Lowe  Olin Gallamore
Liza Field  Troy Strickland  Ed Jennings
Michele Banky  Steven Turner  Bobby Jo Wilson Jennings
John Cobler, Jr.  Shirley Holland  Jeffrey Scott
William Clark  Gary Barnard  Vicky Collins
Dave Carroll  Ronald Powers  Joan Holmes Blankenship
Ellen Fulcher  Jeff Clark  Collin Farmer
Dennis Newcomb

And others.
Commissioner Pruitt called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Associate Member Gordy. Commissioner Pruitt and Associate Member Gordy led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

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EAST TENNESSEE NATURAL GAS, #01-2113, requests authorization to install a total of 29 gas pipeline crossings under 25 jurisdictional, State-owned subaqueous stream and river beds in five counties in southwestern Virginia associated with the proposed Patriot Project. The pipeline expansion and extension project will traverse Smyth, Wythe, Carroll, Patrick, and Henry Counties and is protested by numerous residents along the proposed route from Tennessee to North Carolina.

During the public hearing, the Commission reviewed drawings, plans and photos of the proposal, all documents in the official record, and considered the testimony provided by staff. Additional testimony was offered by Mr. Rick Smith and Mr. Dennis Newcomer of East Tennessee Natural Gas, as well as the oral arguments provided by their counsel, Mr. Tim Hayes. In addition, 33 people spoke in opposition to the project, including Senator W. Roscoe Reynolds, Delegate Ward Armstrong, a representative of Congressman Virgil Goode, Mr. Ron Meadows of the Blue Ridge Coalition and other local representatives and citizens. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Commission voted 4-1 to close the record and continue the matter until the December 17, 2002, meeting.

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The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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William A. Pruitt, Commissioner

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Katherine V. Leonard, Recording Secretary