The Sabal Trail Pipeline

Risks and realities of a project, and why we must stop it!
Who is Sabal Trail LLC?

- Sabal Trail Transmission LLC is a joint venture of Spectra Corp and NextEra Energy.
- They were awarded the 465-mile interstate project in July 2013 by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).
- Construction of the pipeline (which starts in Alabama, runs through Georgia, and ends at the Central Florida Hub near Orlando) costs about $3 billion.
- Sabal Trail LLC is now approaching landowners for surveys.
- The planned in-service date for the pipeline is May 2017.
Proposed Pipeline Route(s)

Impacted GA Counties:
- Stewart (Lumpkin)
- Webster (Preston)
- Terrell (Dawson)
- Lee (Leesburg)
- Dougherty (Albany)
- Mitchell (Camilla)
- Colquitt (Moultrie)
- Brooks (Quitman)
- Lowndes (Valdosta)

(for preferred route A)
Why does FPL want the line?

- Florida uses the most natural gas next to Texas, but has minimal production. The two existing pipelines in Florida are at full capacity.

- The pipeline will be built to provide the state with additional natural gas transportation.

- FPL, the states 2nd largest electric utility and largest natural gas user, will be the main pipeline customer.

- The pipeline will expand Florida’s access to additional sources of natural gas throughout the US.
A 36 inch pipeline will be used for this project.

The pipeline will run for 196 miles through Georgia and counties like Colquitt, Brooks, and Lowndes.

Capacity: 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

A survey study of 600 feet will be taken to allow for future pipeline route refinements, “if necessary”.

An easement of 100 feet will be “acquired” from landowners along the route.
Promises made by Sabal Trail

- The project “will create significant jobs ... as well as add capital investment and tax base to all three states.”

- The pipeline “will increase energy diversity, security and reliability to southeastern markets”, while providing “clean-burning, affordable natural gas.”

- “Sabal Trail is dedicated to safe operation”; “our safety programs exceed regulatory requirements”; “pipeline will operate in accordance with federal safety requirements (DOT / PHMSA)”; “we will monitor the pipeline 24/7”; ...
Let’s take a look at these promises

You have probably heard this before, but …
Property Values, Rights, Taxes?

- With or without your consent, a 100 feet wide stretch of your land will be used as an easement (“eminent domain”)
- You lose the right to use this easement as you see fit:
  - No dwellings and no deep rooting trees will be allowed.
- You will have to pay property taxes on this easement even though it has been rendered virtually useless.
- Access to this portion of your land has to be granted to the company that purchases the easement for maintenance
- 600 feet “survey study” and its potential refinements
- A pipeline going through your property will decrease its value, and pipeline corridors in general don’t attract businesses to communities.
What will construction look like?

Just imagine that this might happen on YOUR land!
Safety?

Number of US pipeline accidents since 2010

- 2010 — 28 pipeline accidents
- 2011 — 30 pipeline accidents
- 2012 — 36 pipeline accidents
- 2013 — 29 pipeline accidents
- 2014 — 4 pipeline accidents and counting

That’s a total of 127 pipeline accidents in the past four years. While not all were gas pipelines, it proves that pipelines are not “safe”! See the “safe” gas pipelines on the next slides.
On September 9, 2010, in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno, 5 people were killed, dozens injured, and 38 homes destroyed when a natural gas pipeline exploded.
5 dead after gas explosion devastated a rowhouse neighborhood and set fire to a block of homes. It took utility workers five hours to seal the 12-inch pipeline, finally cutting off the flow of gas that fed the raging flames.
At least five homes went up in flames near Sissonville, West Virginia, and a badly burned section of Interstate 77 in West Virginia was closed for some time after a natural gas line exploded in an hour-long inferno.
Explosion of a natural gas pipeline obliterated an 80-foot section of a transmission line, which moves natural gas from Texas to Florida. Trees within 600 feet were knocked down, and burned within 1,500 feet. 55 people were evacuated and roads closed within a one-mile radius of the site. No deaths or injuries were reported.
Erie, IL / 8-12-2013

A 10-inch gas pipeline exploded near Erie, Illinois. The fire was so intense, the flames could be spotted from miles away. Residents within one mile had to be evacuated until the gas pipeline was turned off and the fire extinguished.
A 30-inch natural gas pipeline exploded near the town of Rosston, Oklahoma. The site is located four miles south of the Kansas state line. No injuries were reported, but four homes within two miles of the site were evacuated.
Milford, TX / 11-14-2013

A natural gas pipeline exploded in rural North Texas with no injuries and officials are allowing the fire to burn out. A drilling crew punctured the gas pipeline and triggered an explosion that led emergency personnel to evacuate a nearby town.
Enka, NC / 1-10-2014

A gas pipeline ruptured in Enka, NC, causing a large explosion and fire. Several vehicles were reported to be on fire near the scene, and two businesses and several homes suffered heat damage.
One worker has been injured and another is missing after a natural gas well explosion and fire in southwestern Pennsylvania, within miles of the West Virginia border. Crews at the scene report that intense flames have kept them from getting too close to the well.
A natural gas pipeline explosion and fire south of Tioga caused no injuries. The fire department set up a perimeter about a half mile north of the blaze to keep people from driving through the area.
A natural gas pipeline exploded in Adair County, destroying two homes, causing an evacuation of 20 residents, and blasting a 60-foot crater into the ground near Highway 76 in Knifley, Kentucky.
Spectra Energy’s “Safety Record”

- Spectra Energy fined $15 million for spills at 89 pipeline sites
- Spectra Energy responsible for $8 million in property damage
- Spectra Energy has a poor record in regard to the maintenance and monitoring of its pipelines
- Spectra Energy “transparency” is exposed by its back-tracking and flip-flopping
A clean energy future?

- Our future is neither clean nor safe unless we embrace truly renewable and clean sources of energy like solar and wind.

- Natural gas is a fossil fuel and by nature finite. Making us more dependent on natural gas is not a recipe for a secure energy future.

- Natural gas may burn cleaner than oil and coal, but the process used to extract it (hydraulic fracturing) bares dire consequences for the environment, our drinking water, and the health of US citizens.

  Note: as with the current attempt to “acquire” easements for a pipeline, landowners elsewhere have seen their property rights violated, their land polluted, and their health ruined as the fracking industry uses “eminent domain” to increase their profits, while the government looks the other way.
Jobs and Taxes?

 Companies like Spectra Energy like to claim that their ventures benefit communities by bringing “thousands of jobs”, by “adding capital investment” and by “increasing the tax base”. In reality:

- The number of permanent jobs are at best in the dozens, and there are no guarantees that these will go to people in your community.
- Pipeline companies receive special tax breaks that translate to lower federal revenues, so that American taxpayers have to pick up the slack.

If we really were interested in jobs and a clean and secure energy future, particularly states like Florida (the “Sunshine State”) and Georgia would invest in renewable sources of energy like solar:

- There are more jobs in the solar industry than in coal, oil and natural gas!
Questions for Sabal Trail LLC:

- What is the position of Sabal Trail LLC on fracking, property rights, and its so-called “safety record” as outlined above?
- Why are there three different routes for the pipeline, a preferred route, plus two alternative routes?
- What is the status of the viability of these three routes? If one or two of them are no longer viable, what are the specific reasons?
- Why has Sabal Trail been unwilling to provide copies of the maps they displayed or lists of affected landowners?
- How many fail safe and manual valves will be involved and what is the distance between them?
- What schedule pipe will be used? Is it a seamless or seemed pipe? Where was the pipe manufactured?
Questions for Sabal Trail LLC:

- What welding technique will be used? Will pipes be x-rayed? What is the maximum pressure going through the pipe?
- Have any elected officials or corporations petitioned for this line to run through our state? What is the amount of revenue to the state of Georgia that will come from this pipeline?
- What is the format for upcoming “Public Meetings” to be held by Sabal Trail. The current format restricts an open dialogue.
- Are there any contracts to supply Georgia businesses or residents from the proposed pipeline?
- Is any of the natural gas from the proposed pipeline going to be exported? Is the current infrastructure being efficiently utilized to avoid the need for an additional pipeline?
What can and must we do?

- Say NO to the survey! This will slow down the process Sabal Trail LLC must go through to seek approval. If you have already agreed, call your contact agent and pull your permission.

- Contact your elected officials (City, County, State Representatives, Senators) and express your concerns

- Visit FERC.GOV and file an eComment, or write a letter and send it in.
How do you file with FERC?

- This can be done electronically or in writing.

- To file a complaint electronically go to www.ferc.gov
  - Go to “Documents and Filings”, then to “eComment”. Fill out the required information and you will receive an email with a link to a comment form.
  - Search and select Docket Number PF14-1 and enter your comments. The more of us object to this pipeline, the better! We must flood them with comments!

- Written comments should be mailed to:

  Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
  888 First Street, NE
  Washington, DC 20426
Useful links and resources:

○ Do you need more information on how to contact FERC?
  - go to: http://spectrabusters.org/ferc/

○ How do you deny and rescind permission to your land?
  - go to: http://spectrabusters.org/2013/10/30/sample-no-permission-letters/

○ For maps outlining the areas potentially impacted by the pipeline, go to: http://spectrabusters.org/maps/
More links and resources:

- Who and what is driving the construction of this pipeline?
Stay up-to-date and get involved

- Go to SpectraBusters.org to stay up-to-date on our progress, to access our resources, to join our fight, to stop the gas line from coming through your property.

- Visit us on Facebook at Spectrabusters to connect with others and read the latest news.

- Contact us by email or send us inquiries at: spectrabusters@yahoo.com

- We will be happy to give you more information and we really need your help in stopping this pipeline.
Sources

- SpectraBusters (www.spectrabusters.org)
- S.A.V.E. (www.facebook.com/groups/2201154102/)
- On the LAKE Front (www.l-a-k-e.org/blog/)
- WACE (http://wiregrass-ace.org/)
- Food & Water Watch (www.foodandwaterwatch.org/)
- Spectra Energy (www.spectraenergy.com)
- Sabal Trail LLC (www.sabaltrailtransmission.com)
It takes a village to stop a pipeline!