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# Bordontown opposition to pipeline weakens

By **BRIAN SCHEID**

Burlington County Times

BORDENTOWN TOWNSHIP - Opposition to a proposal to build a pipeline through the township appeared to weaken last night when residents found out the company proposing the line wants to build it away from their homes.

Dozens of area residents attended an informational open house last night hosted by officials with Williams Transco, the Oklahoma-based energy company that wants to build a 3.5-mile natural-gas pipeline through the township.

Williams engineers initially proposed five different underground routes for the pipeline, including two on the west side of the New Jersey Turnpike that would have passed through residential neighborhoods.

Those two routes drew heavy criticism from township officials and residents.

Williams officials have since picked a path east of the turnpike as their preferred route. The route is not near homes and businesses.

Several residents at last night's session said they were pleased with the choice.

"This made me feel better," said Don Smith, a resident of the Williamsburg Village neighborhood on the west side of the turnpike.

"It calmed my worries," said Jennifer Maicher, a resident of the Clifton Mills neighborhood, also on the west side of the turnpike.

But John Altman, another Clifton Mills resident, said he was worried that the new line could depreciate the value of his home.

Doug Anderson, a team lead-er on the pipeline project, said most residents he spoke with yesterday were pleased with Williams' preferred

route.

Gina Johnson, a Williams spokeswoman, said the proposal still needs to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval.

The proposed line would expand the 10,500-mile pipeline the company operates between Texas and New York.

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