

*Mike O'Brien*

Interviewer: Michael Kline

Date: March 13, 2014

Place of Interview:

Transcriptionist: Adept Word Management

Carrie Kline: **0:00:00.5** My grandparents have a farm, but I've never lived out there.

Mike O'Brien: I think it's just the nicest connection to everything—you know—an experience for us. So you're going to interview me, and I'm just going to start to ramble again.

Michael Kline: Well, I— (laughter) I just wanted to say that— (speaking off microphone) Just say, "My name is" and introduce yourself.

MO: My name is Michael O'Brien.

MK: Okay, and this is a followup interview to one we did last fall.

MO: Right.

MK: And at that time, your situation seemed pretty desperate.

MO: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

MK: You were facing a major alteration to the landscape here on your farm.

MO: Right, right. There was a couple of oil and gas outfits coming to talk to me. One was CONSOL, and they told me that they are basically contractors for Noble, who are nationally a big company. This is what was explained to me. But they said that they represent CONSOL and that they were land management people and that they wanted a right of way across one of my ridges. Previous to that, EQT, another oil and gas company, had been talking to me about running a pipeline on a different ridge line, and then I hadn't heard anything more from them. Then CONSOL got in touch with me and said they wanted to run a line across me. It seems like the property that I own lays in such a way that I'm in the way of a couple of oil and gas companies to get to the main distribution center over on Route 50. And as they're working their way from west to east coming across to here, now they're talking about—and of course, they've known—I haven't—what the plans are—that they need to get across me or around me. The way CONSOL explained it to me is if they go around me, it's going to cost them quite a bit of money, millions. So they wanted a right of way through me, and they came to talk to me about it. So then, they start off as they just have the land management fellows come and talk to you, and

that's who I was talking about. They had a couple fellows from Kentucky working for them who had worked for them in Ohio and Kentucky and Pennsylvania, is what they told me. And now they're working the Virginia area—I mean the West Virginia area. And they said they worked down in Virginia too.

So, they come with a proposal, and they start off with, "This is what we're hoping to do. You can walk the property with us and help us determine where it's best for you where we come across. And this is what we're willing to pay you." So they start off, and they say—I knew that everybody's after this one big ridge—flat ridge up here. And it drops right over to my neighbors from one neighbor to my other, and they need to get across that one ridge line. And I'd seen previous maps. Somebody who worked for Antero showed me a map of where some of the ideas of where these pipelines are going to go. So I had a gist of it. So they said they wanted to run a 24-inch gas line with a 16-inch water line alongside of it, and they wanted 6 acres. And they came to me and said, "We'll give you \$156,000 for 6 acres if you'll let us come across there with these 2—with the gas and the water line." So what I asked them was, "What do you want the water line for? You're obviously not going to a carwash." And I knew they needed the water for the Marcellus—the deep wells. And I know the talk that has been explained to me along the way from fellows in the business is they want to run the water lines from the Ohio River to do this drilling so that they can do away with a lot of the water trucks, because the water trucks are what's creating a lot of damage in a lot of people's faces and making a lot of people angry. So we've been told that that's the biggest reason to bring these water lines in, because they need that water so desperately to drill those deep wells.

**0:04:59.7** So, when I said, "What do you want that water line for?" They said, "Oh, we're just going farther over." I said, "Where is farther over?" I said, "Why would I give you a right of way if you want to put a big Marcellus pad right on the other side of me?" I said, "That would be ridiculous for me to do that." I said, "So if you need that water to drill a deep well pad, where are you putting the pad?" "Well, we're not going to put a pad right close anywhere here any time in the near future." What's the near future—20 years, 10 years, 5 days? I said, "Come on. Be honest with me." Well, first I said to them, "Will you put that in writing, and will you give me a time limit? What are you talking about, you're not going to drill anywhere near me?" "Well no, we're not going to do that. We won't do that, but we just don't have any plans at this point." Well, one of my neighbors told me that they already staked the place out. So I had an idea where they were going, because they're hoping we as neighbors don't talk to each other. So I do talk with my neighbors so we can get an idea of what is being planned for us. So while they kept debating, they came up with \$156,000 for 6 acres. Now what starts to happen is, it just starts playing with your mind. I mean, \$156,000 is like, wow! That's a hell of a chunk of money.

But what it keeps coming down to is my wife and I, we would look—we would ride up to where the area is that they're talking about and just look at what we have, and we'd say okay, let's visualize what they're talking about. You know, they'll seed it and they'll do this, and we got in the car and said let's go over to an area that's been done with a Marcellus well, and let's see what all's going on so that we can really see this for ourselves and get a picture of this. Well, it's never as rosy as they talk about. They talk about how beautiful it's going to be all reseeded, nice meadow, etc. So I kept arguing with them and saying, "Yeah, but I can't build—they tell me I can't build within 100 feet on either side of that 24-inch pipeline because of the danger of it

blowing up and damaging something alongside the pipeline.” I said, “So you’re not just asking for a 90-foot right of way. You’ve already got—that would be a 100 foot on each side, so you’re not being up front about that. Because if I can’t come near that within 100 foot on each side, then that’s the ground you’re taking from me. And what it keeps coming down to is you want my property. And my property hasn’t been for sale.” A lot of people have tried to buy different pieces of my property, and it’s just not for sale. And that’s what is so difficult with this.

**0:07:53.3** So, they left and they came back with—the fellow came back with—another fellow came to sell and talk to me. Then those 2 came back with 2 more. So now we’ve moved up the ladder with who their supervisors are. It was obvious when we sat in the living room there that we’ve got these 2 land contract managers’ supervisor talking with me now. So the one fellow looks at me, Mr. Starch (??), he just looks at me and he says, “Mike, what is it going to take? That’s the bottom line. What is it going to take?” And through all the conversations we’re having, “What is it going to take for us to have a right of way across here?” And I said, “Well, wherever you’re sending that water line, to whatever Marcellus wells you’re sending that to, I get a percentage off of any of those wells.” “Oh, we’re not going to do that.” And I said, “And I want a fourth, because the state of Alaska takes a fourth, you give me a fourth. Why is the state of Alaska any better than I am as a private landowner?” “Oh, we’re not—that’s ridiculous. We’re not going to do business like that. We’re not—that’s not going to happen.” And I said, “Okay. Well, you asked me what it will take.” And they said, “Well I’ll tell you what our offer is at this point. We want 9 acres for this right of way for the pipeline and the water line, and we’ll give you \$225,000.” That comes to about \$26,000 an acre. The one fellow says that’s the highest that’s ever been offered, and we’ll give you that, \$26,000 an acre.” And I said, “Well, let me think it over.” So Nancy and I left that meeting and we talked and looked at each other, and we just said, you know, \$225,000 is a lot of money. But Nancy and I really don’t—Nancy said it better than I did—we don’t think \$225,000 is going to dramatically change our lives that much. We just don’t think it will. So, I said—I got a hold of them, and I said, “We’re not interested in that amount.” And they said, “Well, how much will it take?” I said, “I’ll tell you what. You’re offering me \$26,000 for 9 acres, and once this starts—”

MK: \$26,000 an acre.

MO: —acre. “And once this starts, that’s going to start the development of more oil and gas. I’ve already got the 5 wells I wasn’t able to keep out of here, more shallow wells. Now you’re going to come in with the big Marcellus with your pipelines and your development, and it’s going to be the end of this property as I know it. So I’ll tell you what I’ll do. Instead of \$26,000 an acre, I’ll sell you at \$20,000 an acre for all 400 acres that I own.” “We’re not doing that because that comes to about \$8 million.” That would dramatically change my life. I might be able to find a hollow somewhere where there’s no oil and gas or nothing. Now, after I said that, my wife and I were looking at each other, and it was like, oh my God, they may take it because if they can develop more shallow wells, which they want to do, EQT wants a right of way, Antero wants a right of way, and CONSOL wants a right of way, so I said, “Why don’t you in corporate America all get together and come back and offer me a fair deal if you’re going to destroy my—if you’re going to change my property?” “Well, I will present it to my bosses,” is what they said. And then he gets back to me the next day, and said, “Mike, we’re going around you.” And I said okay.

So when I got off the phone, I felt relieved. I really do. I mean, it's a head game. It's a real head game. It messes with your head.

MK: That much money.

MO: **0:11:50.6** Yeah. Yeah, and then to think that you're going to change and move and give up and the memories and you're going to walk away. In the meantime, I'm trying to deal even more. It's the biggest horse trade I've ever been involved in. I'm saying, "Okay, you give me \$8 million, you develop it, but after you develop it, I want my land back, and you can't come near my house and barn." I'm laying all these little things down. Well, they just say, "Mike, we'll see you later. We're not dealing with you." So they're going to drop down, way down where we first turned on 50. They're going to barrel underneath the 4 lanes. They're going to drop all the way around to Graysville and come back up, up the backside over here to where they want to get. And the way it was explained to me, by the time they tie it in, it's to their advantage rather than paying me a big sum coming across. That's the way they explained to me. After all the development's over, they'll be better off to avoid me, they said. So they're going around me.

So Nancy and I really did feel relieved at the same time. Kind of giggling about this whole thing, telling somebody I want \$8 million dollars. I mean, is that reality? It isn't mine. It's never been mine. So we're kind of giggling about it. At the same time, we're just relieved. You know, you're out of here. I was scared I threw something out there that would make sense to them, because business-wise, dollars and cents, all of a sudden \$8 million—I heard it's going to cost them \$8 million to go around me. So business-wise, I think they blew it. That's neither here nor there for me. So we said okay, so we're nestling back in, waiting for the next wave to come and see what's happening.

And Antero had talked to me previously over the years and said that first they just wanted a water line across me. I said, well you just don't want a water line. And then again, where are you drilling if you want a water line? Well, that's neither here nor there they're saying. So now Antero gets a hold of me and says, "We need to talk to you again." I said okay. They had, right before CONSOL came to talk to me, Antero did send a land management guy to come see me, and he said that they wanted to road that's already been built for the 5 shallow wells up on this ridge line, and they want that ridge line, and they want to cut that ridge line down, make it a 90-foot road system wide across that ridge to get it further out to where they want to put some wells. Well, my whole battle with Key Oil, who's got the 5 shallow wells, was to keep the road down to 30 foot. I didn't even want a 60-foot well—DEP—road wide. DEP said they okayed 60 foot. I said, "My state road coming into my property is 30 foot wide, 15 foot from center. Why am I going to okay a 60-foot wide? If you need to drill those wells, only put a 30-foot wide road across the top of that ridge back there." Key Oil did that. So if you go up there and look and you ride along on the gravel road, you'll see these big oak trees along the fence line. They're beautiful. The old fence has been there probably for 100 years along these big oak trees. Some of them have been damaged from that road, but most of them are there. You'll see that gravel road going between the well sites, and what I've learned is that I've been able to live with that. It was forced on me. I was told, "We're going to do it, and you can't do a thing about it." And that was the previous thing we talked about was how that was shoved on it. So I'm saying okay, I've

learned to live with this. So I have the industry on me on a lower scale, and I'm learning to live with it. And we're trying to figure out how to neutralize the soil where the frac pits leaked. We're figuring out how to redo the pond where it got polluted from the frac pit. We've redone a spring that got damaged from a frac pit. Okay, so I'm learning to live with this, and what I learn from the university and the soil people is that with lime you can neutralize a lot of the chemicals that are in the frac pit even though I don't know what the chemicals are. So we've heavily limed it, and I've had—I took the soil test myself and sent it up to the university. So I'm learning to live with all that. And Antero's saying, "We want that strip through there, and we're going to bulldoze this 90-foot right of way through." And I said—so I called the guy up and said, "I gave you some keys, and you got some keys made to the gate up there. Leave the keys back in my mailbox and stay off my property." He called me and said he needed to bring an environmentalist in, and I said, "Fellow, you haven't even took me out to lunch, and you're asking me to give, give, give, give. The understanding I have is that the state law, you send me a letter, you tell me you're coming to survey, which you did. You've come and surveyed. Now you're telling me you want to do more as far as preparation, which we haven't even come to any agreement that you can come across my surface to do this. So just drop the keys off and leave me be. You're not coming across that ridge."

**0:17:05.3** So I didn't hear from him for a while, then CONSOL came up with their deal, and that one got shot out. So then I get a call from Antero land management, Mark Hudson, again, and Mark says, "I need to meet with you." I said, "Okay, we'll meet up the restaurant." He said, "That's not a very private place." I said, "That's good enough. Let's just go up there, meet up there, and talk and see what you have to say." So I went up to the restaurant and met with him that day, because I told him—because he said something about, "Well, I will buy you lunch." I said okay. And then he said, "You're not going to eat a steak dinner or nothing are you?" I said, "No, don't worry about it." I got the special for him. So I sat down and we ate and then we started talking. And he looked at me and said, "Mike, I'm not asking your permission to put the pad on you. We're putting the pad on you. What I'm asking for is which way do you want us to come into that pad with the access road? That's what I need to know from you. What we're hoping to do—" and as we talked, he kept explaining where they're going to put the pad way out on that far point, and they want to get to that pad. And they can either bulldoze where they wanted to around that ridge, come all the way around the ridge and get all the way over to that pad. Or they can come up that road by the church there, bulldoze the road through my meadow, and get up to that pad, then bring a road all the way around the back part of the property, then shoot out. I said, "What difference does it make? You're just coming 2 different directions but covering same kind of damages the back part of my property." He said, "Well, we want to drop a second well right over the back of the fence up here on the ridge line of your property. So we need to come from that well over to the second well we want to drill." And I said, "Then you're going to build a road around to this point out here and then shoot on our the ridge line there to a third well? That's what you're showing me on this map?" "Well yeah, but we're not going to put that road on you. We'll drop it right over your fence." I said, "You're going to build a 90-foot wide road for tanker trucks to do 3 wells, and in my lifetime, I'm going to sit here and watch this major operation. Well, what are you offering me? CONSOL offered me \$26,000 an acre." And he told me they wanted 30 acres to do all this. I said, "How much are you going to be paying me?" And he said, "Well, we don't give anything like that. We're not giving \$20,000 an acre either." So all of a sudden he knows the conversations have been going on, and then he says,

“We give what they appraisal’s value is, and that’s \$1500-\$2000 an acre.” And I said okay. I said, “Well, how much are you going to give me for the pad that you’re going to put on me no matter what I say?” He said, “We don’t know. That varies how much we pay for a pad.” I said, “Okay, well I’m going to sue you.” He said, “You’re going to sue us?” I said, “Yeah. You come on me the way you’re coming, and I’m suing you. You can be sure of that. We’re going to do legal. We’re going to go the full legal extent of this that I can. I’m going to take all the money I’ve got to fight you.” He said, “We have a legal right to drill since you’re just a surface owner. You don’t own the minerals. We have the legal right to put a pad and drill down to get the oil and gas for the minerals.” I said, “That’s the argument the shallow wells used. And legally you’re right, but what’s being argued is that you go down—you can put that pad on me and you can go down and get those minerals for the minerals, but you can’t shoot that tube—that leg—on out and start transporting other people’s oil and gas across my property. Because then you’re breaking the law and not asking me for an easement or a right of way to do that, and I’m going to fight you. So get ready.”

**0:21:30.7** So, he saw the CONSOL fellow there at the restaurant when we were leaving, and he said to him with me standing there, he says, “Mike’s looking for Santa Claus.” I didn’t say nothing. I just said okay. So I said, “Look, I’ll be sending you a letter letting you know what I’m planning and what I’m open for. I think this was a pretty good meeting.” And they said, “How was this a good meeting? We didn’t resolve anything.” I said, “No, we didn’t resolve anything, but for the first time in 2 years, I fully know what you’re planning now. It’s taken me that long to finally get it out what’s really being planned here. And I believe we’re going to see where we end up as far as legal is concerned. Now, I’m going to fight you legally as far as I can. Financially I’m able to. But if a lawyer ever says to me, like they did on the shallow wells, that Mike, you’ve got to compromise with them because they’re financially going to break you. When that happens, all the legal stops. Then we’re going to draw a line through the sand, and you and I are going to fight. And that’s what it’s coming down to.” So I got up and left, and then he made that comment to CONSOL about me wanting Santa Claus, and we left that meeting.

So the next day, I was up the restaurant, and he came over and jumped real close to me—the land contract guy did—and he grabbed my hand and started shaking it and said, “I was looking for your letter. I was looking for your letter. I haven’t seen it.” So in one day, this is a game now. This is a chess game. This is jerk-around game. This is egos involved. I threatened him, and he let me know. So I just looked at him and said, “I have to talk to a lawyer first, and you’ll be getting a letter.” And then I left. So then I called back to him and—no, I got a hold of my son-in-law, who’s a lawyer, explained it to him. I read to him the surface owner’s rights piece about the tubing under the ground and that that needs to be challenged in circuit court. He thought it looked very promising. Other lawyers that looked at it think it’s very promising. I’m a little more skeptical, because when you get into big money with oil and gas, why is the judge going to rule in my favor? If I take it all the way to the state Supreme Court, why would I—if that was a horse race, would I go bet on me? I don’t think so. I don’t think so, so I’m a little more skeptical. But at the same time, I know that these fellows—the oil and gas—of everybody I’ve talked to don’t want this kind of battle to take place. That’s the sense I get from them. If we can avoid all of this, we’re going to, because if I did win it in the state Supreme Court— if I did win it in the state Supreme Court, it’s like I said to CONSOL and I said to Antero both. If you come around me and start sticking these massive pads right over my fence line and threatening to put the road

right on the other side of my fence line, I'm going to battle you on that same issue. You can go down and come to me, but you can't go any further. And if I win, then every landowner in the state, you're going to have to go back and renegotiate with them. So you're talking about, my God, how many millions of dollars? I don't even begin to know. But whoever sets that precedent—whichever sets that, if it gets set in a circuit court—

**0:25:23.0** So the oil and gas fellows I talked to who do the shallow wells, the 2 fellows I talked to, they both said, "Mike, on the shallow wells you have up here where the line hooks on to those wells and goes out and then is sold, we have a right of way, and we have an easement to do that. But we can't hook on to a neighbor's well or a well that we have on a neighbor of yours and run their oil and gas through that line without your permission. So when I pull up from the surface owner's and read that, it explains—it says there that it's never been tested, but it's always been assumed. It's always been acknowledged that you don't do it. And the oil and gas guys who've done all these surface wells, these shallow wells, don't do it without coming to the landowner and asking for a right of way to run somebody else's oil and gas across your property. So my argument is, is that across my property 6 foot under the ground, 10 foot under the ground, or 10,000 foot under the ground? And it's never been established. My son-in-law is a lawyer, but he says, "I'm not an expert in oil and gas at all. I wish my office and people were, but I can give you better advice. But I think that this could be tested. He's the one that said to me that there's 2 liberal judges at the state Supreme Court, and there's 2 conservative judges, and there's a swing vote. And this may be the time to where this could be tested." Now, other people I know who have court cases against the oil and gas, their lawyer said to them, "There's going to be a lot of test cases before this is all over with, because everybody's getting run over top of, and there isn't anything really substantiated one way or the other on all this stuff."

So I think CONSOL just didn't want to be bothered with any of this with me. It would be better for them to avoid me and go around me. Antero, I was saying the same thing to them. It's better if you just leave me alone and go away. If not, this is how I'm going to do it, and this is how I'm going to challenge you. So, I called Mark Hudson from Antero, and I said, "Where is something in writing on everything that you discussed with me on what you're planning on doing?" And he said, "Well Mike, we're not even sure what we're doing right now." And I said okay. So, I wrote up the letter to send to Mark Hudson on what I was planning on doing, and I sent it certified to make sure that I know that he received it. My son-in-law, who is a lawyer, polished it up for me to give the legal jargon that's needed in there. And it goes to Mark Hudson, Antero Resources. The date is wrong, and that will be explained in a future letter that my son-in-law wrote, but my son-in-law polished this up, and then I mailed it to Mark Hudson through Antero Resources. And it says:

Dear Mr. Hudson:

I am writing to request information from Antero Resources regarding its intention to drill a Marcellus well on my property. To date, you have not provided me written confirmation or explanation of the details associated with your plans to drill a Marcellus well on my property. Therefore, I am requesting the following information from Antero:

Mike O'Brien  
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1. A detailed description of all operations being planned for my property.
2. With respect to the Marcellus well being proposed, please advise whether you intend to utilize horizontal drilling practices to capture gas underneath tracts of property that I do not own while utilizing the Marcellus well on my property.
3. Please advise of any and all structures that will be placed on my land associated with the placement of a Marcellus well including but not limited to well equipment, storage tanks, compressors, etc.

Please provide me with documentation responsive to the items listed above so I may properly evaluate my legal options associated with the limited and vague verbal representation made to me by Antero representatives concerning the drilling of a Marcellus well on my property.

Thank you in advance of your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Michael O'Brien

**0:30:15.0** A week later, I received a letter from Antero Resources from Mark Hudson, and it says, "Dear Mr. O'Brien—"

Well, right before I picked the letter up in the mailbox—right before I picked the letter up in the mailbox—I called Antero Resources, and I wanted to know who Mark Hudson's supervisor is. And I called him, and I said, "I sent you—sent Mark Hudson a letter. I haven't seen a response. It was about a week. And I wanted you to know that when your representative comes to me and tells me that they're going to put a pad on me whether I like it or not and that I'm just supposed to tell him where I want the devastation of getting to that pad with the well roads and etc. That's not a way to start a business deal, and that's not the way to talk to a person.

He said, "Well, I'm sorry you've had some difficulty with Mark. Most people seem to really like him." I said, "Well I don't, and I don't particularly want to talk to him. From now on, we need to make sure we have everything in writing from this point on. He said, "Well, the one thing I can tell you at this point is we're not coming on you." So, I hung up the phone. I went down to the mailbox that morning, and here was the letter from Mark Hudson. And it said:

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 24, 2014. (My lawyer had the date wrong.) I would like to thank you for your time and consideration involving the possibility of Antero locating a drilling location and/or access road on your property. After further review, Antero has revised their drilling plans and currently feels that there is no need to locate a drilling location or access road on your property at this time. In the event future plans involve your property, I will contact you to discuss the possibility of working out a surface use agreement with you. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Mike O'Brien  
March 13, 2014

Sincerely,  
 Mark Hudson  
 Surface Land Man  
 Antero Resources Corp.

**0:32:37.1** So I faxed that to my son-in-law, and then him and I have been talking about lawyers, and we looked on the Internet under surface owner rights, which lawyers if we're going to keep following up on this. And he said whatever lawyer I go and talk to, he wants to go with me. He said, "I don't have the technical skills, Mike, but I know you need a litigator, and you need somebody that can tell me about previous cases. And I'd like to ask him some questions. I want to make sure that you don't end up with a lawyer like you had before." Because he sat in one of the hearings and heard the lawyer I had before, who I thought ripped me off. So, I've really felt good that also I'm not out there by myself again. Yeah. But my son-in-law wanted to make sure there's no difficulty in him being a lawyer up to this point, helping me, because we don't want that to create any friction with us as family. And so that's why he's kind of stayed back, but now all of a sudden, he's stepping up and just—

So he polishes up another letter. I fax him the copy that Mark Hudson sent to me saying they're not coming—now, today is the only thing I'm sure of they're not coming. And I faxed it to him. So he said, "I'm going to work up a letter, and I'll send you a copy. Read it and see if it's okay if I send it to Antero. Let me work something up." I said okay. So he worked up—Mark Hudson. This was on March 6, 2014. He's got it dated to Mark Hudson:

Dear Mr. Hudson:

I am writing in reply to your letter dated March 4, 2014, which was authored in response to my initial letter sent to you on February 24, 2014, incorrectly dated as September 24, 2014. In your letter of March 4, 2014, you indicated that Antero Resources has no intention of placing a drilling location or access road on my property at this time. I trust if your plans or intentions change at any point in the future with respect to my property, you will notify me in writing and respond to the areas of inquiry identified in my February 24 correspondence. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,  
 Michael O'Brien

So we followed up with that letter and sent it to Antero, and everything has just been quiet from this point on. I don't know where they're coming around me. I would like to know, because I'm still not certain that they won't find a way to come right over through the back somehow and drop wells right over top my fence, which goes right back into I'm dealing with the industry again. So, it's not over, but I do go around my farm and farm my farm and feel at peace that they're not bring a dozer and building a pad on me as I speak. But there will be followups to this, I'm sure.

MK: Can you tell me in a nutshell now why they decided not to come across your ridge?

Mike O'Brien  
 March 13, 2014

MO: **0:36:03.6** I think—it's hard because it's mostly assumption on my part, because it's such a chess match that goes on. And again, I always say it's a poker game, and they've got the cards. They dealt me the hand and looked at my cards, and then they deal themselves a hand and hold it real close, and I don't get to see their hand. And I just feel that all the time. So what I'm going to respond to is, through all the interactions I've had—is—and from what other people who work for Antero and CONSOL and etc. have said to me—is they see me as a pain in the ass. They see me as somebody who's not just a—and this is a quote—"a dumb hillbilly." That was quoted to me by somebody who works for Antero. "They're going to have their hands full with you, because you're not just some dumb hillbilly." So I think it's that kind of—I don't see that as really a positive comment in any form, but they just see me as somebody who will keep hammering away and trying to do what I think is needed. I think that surface owner's law that looks like it should be challenged is something that they just as soon not have happen. So if they can put that well so many ridges out or away from my property and then shoot under and get all the gas and oil that they can and do it some other way without having to deal with me, they're going to do it. So it's really just so they don't have to deal with me.

MK: So challenging—this land owner's document says challenging this custom of moving your neighbor's oil across your land is something that any landowner could do.

MO: Any landowner could do. And I've been told that there was somebody who was going to challenge it, but he was an older fellow and just a little tired to go through that whole process because it will go on for such a long period of time and that there was a settlement. So he didn't pursue it any further. And my understanding is that the SORO group—Surface Owner Rights Organization—is hoping somebody will challenge this, because they printed it on their website, and somebody who will stay with it to see if it can be documented as a law that will have to be held to.

MK: Do you have any questions?

CK: So how do you feel at this point?

MO: Just pushed back. I feel like I just got them pushed back. I feel like they're still up there plotting and planning on whatever they're going to do. If I can just hold them away and then learn to live with what I'm going to have to live with and if I'm going to be able to live with it. I think they're still coming, but I don't know how close. I don't know where. I can take you now and go up on the ridge and look out, and you can see one big pad way out there about 2 ridges over. So I don't know how many more they've got planned and where the legs are that they need to go under, etc. But I just feel like I'm waiting to see what the next is so I can deal with that. Again, money wise, I'd say a minimum of \$350,000-500,000 my wife and I just—it's like my boy said. He said, "Boy, they're not coming on you. That's good, I guess, because when you get into that kind of money—" But it still comes down to, it's not the money. It's just not—it's—there are figures out there I threw out there, but it's—I don't want to speak for my wife, but when we talk, we're just, leave us alone. Just leave us alone. When I go out the holler, I see all of what's happening out there. It's just—I can only try to take care of the ground I have, and I'm just going to try to do the best job I can. But I don't know how close they may come. If they're

able to swing in on a property right over there and put it right out on that point to where I'm sitting on the porch looking at the whole thing and all the trucking is right over there on that ridge, then that will be all the noise and everything will be there, all that industry will be there. I don't think we're going to stay, are we babe? No. We'll pack up and go. We'll pack up. So it's how to hold them off as far back off as I can hold them off and learn to live with what I already have on me. So that's what we'll do.

MK: Well, why don't we see what the wife has to say for herself?

MO: Ha, they're going to get Nan! Nope, she doesn't do—come on back.

**0:41:46.2** (end of audio)

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