

BEFORE CHIP CAMERON

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IN RE: :
U.S. Department of Energy Draft Uranium Leasing :
Program Programmatic Environmental Impact :
Statement Public Hearing :
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Grand Junction, Colorado
Monday, April 22, 2013

PURSUANT TO NOTICE to all parties in interest, the
above entitled matter came on for public hearing
before CHIP CAMERON on Monday, April 22, 2013,
commencing at 7:00 p.m., at Colorado Mesa University,
1455 North 12th Street, Grand Junction, Colorado,
before Elizabeth W. Schnittker, Registered Professional
Reporter.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHIP CAMERON: Good evening, everybody. I'm
3 Chip Cameron, and I'd like to welcome you to the
4 Department of Energy's public hearing on the Draft
5 Uranium Leasing Program Programmatic Environmental
6 Impact Statement.

7 And we're going to try to avoid using
8 acronyms tonight, but one acronym you might hear is
9 Draft PEIS or Programmatic Environmental Impact
10 Statement.

11 It's my pleasure to serve as your
12 facilitator for tonight's hearing. And in that role,
13 I'll try to help all of you to have a productive
14 meeting tonight.

15 I am a private contractor under contract to
16 Argonne National Lab and the Department of Energy to
17 facilitate the meeting tonight, and my company is the
18 Zero Gravity Group.

19 I want to go over some meeting logistics
20 with you tonight so that you know what to expect. And
21 I'd like to talk about the objectives for the meeting,
22 the agenda for the meeting, and then talk about some
23 very simple ground rules to help us all have a
24 productive meeting tonight.

25 In terms of objectives, we have two

1 objectives tonight: And the first one is to provide
2 you information on the Draft PEIS. And in a few
3 moments, Ray Plieness from the Department of Energy is
4 going to give you an overview of the Draft
5 Environmental Impact Statement.

6 Our second objective is to hear your
7 comments, your recommendations, your advice, your
8 concerns, on the alternatives and potential impacts
9 that are discussed in the PEIS.

10 The Department has also requested written
11 comments on the Draft PEIS, and hopefully your
12 discussions with the Department during the open house,
13 Ray's presentation, and the discussions after the
14 meeting with the Department and their expert advisors,
15 that will help you to prepare your written comments.

16 But I want to assure you that anything that
17 you say tonight as a comment carries the same weight
18 as a written comment. And of course, if you want to
19 comment tonight and file a written comment, that's
20 perfectly fine.

21 There's a sign-in sheet at the front desk
22 for those of you who wish to make a comment.

23 Now, we're also taking a transcript of the
24 meeting tonight, and we have Elizabeth, our court
25 reporter, here, who is going to be recording your

1 comments and also Ray's presentation. And that
2 transcript will be publicly available to you.

3 The agenda tonight is pretty
4 straightforward. After my remarks, Ray Plieness is
5 going to give you an overview of the Draft PEIS, and
6 then we're going to go on to those of you who signed
7 up to comment. And I'm going to ask you to -- I'll
8 call your name, ask you to come up to the podium, and
9 if you could just please introduce yourself to us and
10 give us your affiliation, if that's appropriate, and
11 then give us your comment.

12 And we probably will have time after Ray's
13 presentation to go out to any of you who might have a
14 clarifying question on the process for this PEIS, and
15 we want to make sure that you understand what that
16 process is. And I'm emphasizing that these will be
17 questions on the process.

18 If you have questions on the material in the
19 Draft PEIS, we're going to ask you to talk to Ray and
20 his colleagues after the meeting. So we'll have a few
21 minutes for questions before we go to the main purpose
22 of tonight's meeting, which is to hear from all of you
23 who might have comments tonight.

24 In terms of ground rules, I want to ensure
25 that we have enough time to hear from everybody

1 tonight, so I'm going to ask you to follow a four-
2 minute guideline for your comments. And I'll give you
3 a notice when you get to about three minutes so that
4 you can sum up for us.

5 And we're thinking that four minutes is
6 going to be enough time to get your major concerns to
7 the Department. If you want to amplify on what you
8 said, you can always submit a written comment.

9 And the second guideline, other than the
10 clarifying questions that we go out to you for after
11 Ray's presentation, the Department is not going to be
12 answering any questions during the formal comment
13 period.

14 And the Department is here tonight to
15 carefully listen to your comments and to consider your
16 comments, but they're not going to be responding to
17 your comments tonight after you give them. They will
18 carefully evaluate those comments as they prepare the
19 Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

20 We're scheduled to end at 9:00 tonight, but
21 depending on how many speakers we have, we'll stay
22 until we've heard from all of those of you who want to
23 comment tonight.

24 And I'm going to introduce Ray Plieness to
25 you. He is the document manager for the Uranium

1 Leasing Program PEIS. He's also the hearing officer
2 for tonight's hearing. And after his presentation,
3 we'll go out for a few questions and then we'll go to
4 the people who signed up for comment.

5 And this is Ray.

6 RAY PLIENESS: My name is Ray Plieness, I'm
7 with the Department of Energy Office of Legacy
8 Management. I want to first applaud each of you for
9 coming out. Some of us are getting paid for this
10 opportunity to participate, others are doing this out
11 of their own time and effort. And we've put a lot of
12 time and effort into the PEIS; hopefully you can see
13 that as you review it. But you're putting your
14 personal time out to give us comments, which is really
15 -- I mean, it's okay for me to talk about the PEIS,
16 but what we're really here to do is hear from you, the
17 public.

18 So I just want you to know, honestly and
19 earnestly, I applaud you for taking the time to
20 participate here in tonight's proceedings.

21 With that, I'll move right forward.

22 First of all, we have four public meetings
23 going on this week: first one here in Grand Junction,
24 and then we'll be moving to Montrose tomorrow night,
25 up to Telluride on Wednesday, and our final public

1 hearing will be in Naturita on Thursday evening.

2 The purpose of a need will be one of these
3 sessions we talked about, why are we even doing this
4 thing? And we'll talk about the proposed action; we'll
5 go on and talk about the Uranium Lease Program and
6 some history.

7 Hopefully some of you might know a lot about
8 it, others may know almost nothing about it. But we
9 want to give you an understanding of where we've been
10 with this program over the last 40 years.

11 We'll talk a little bit about the
12 cooperating agencies, the people that actually have
13 helped develop this PEIS. And a critical part of this
14 PEIS that is not in the PEIS, it's a separate process
15 called the Endangered Species Act and compliance with
16 that.

17 But we're going to talk about our
18 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
19 relative to the decisions we're making and the process
20 we've been working on in the PEIS.

21 And we're going to talk about the five
22 alternatives and what differentiates alternatives 1, 2
23 and, in particular, 3, 4 and 5. Each of those has a
24 uniqueness to it, and I'll hopefully clarify that, if
25 you have questions about that.

1 And then we'll talk about the preferred
2 alternative. Within this, we'll talk about impacts
3 that we've analyzed as well as mitigation measures and
4 the next steps.

5 So the purpose of this program is to supply
6 domestic uranium to the nation. That was codified in
7 AEA, back in, let's see, I think 1942. But basically,
8 it authorized and directed DOE -- at that time, it was
9 our predecessor agency, Atomic Energy Commission -- to
10 develop and supply a domestic uranium process.

11 Since that time, in 2005, the Energy Policy
12 Act reconfirmed nuclear as one of the potential energy
13 sources for the country and continued that process.

14 So tonight, and the next four nights, we're
15 going to get public comment on what we're doing in
16 support of those statutes. DOE will ultimately
17 determine in the next six months whether we continue
18 the Uranium Leasing Program, and if we do, what and
19 how will we do that, which process will we do.

20 And this is a NEPA term: Proposed action.
21 And it really tries to establish what are you deciding
22 with this process? And I kind of just went over that,
23 but we're really deciding should this program
24 continue; if it does, which of the alternatives --
25 five alternatives -- should we manage it under.

1 Actually, one of the alternatives would no
2 longer be part of the program, that's actually
3 alternative 2.

4 The Uranium Leasing Program has a long
5 history. It started back in the late 1940s, with the
6 Atomic Energy Commission, as I mentioned. There were
7 previously three programs in 1948 to '62, where we
8 administered the lease tracts. I think at that time
9 we had, I think, 48 lease tracts, and now we have 31.

10 Then it continued in '74 to '94. There's
11 really been no production on the lease tracts since
12 1980, but the program continued as an opportunity for
13 others to -- for the leases to be mined if they so
14 chose to, based on economics or other factors.

15 And then we continued that from 1996 to
16 2008.

17 During that historical period, 8.1 million
18 pounds of uranium that was mined, 41 million tons of -
19 - or pounds of vanadium, which generated about \$65
20 million in royalties.

21 The current program has 31 lease tracts in
22 it, about 25,000 acres all in southwestern Colorado.
23 The historical program included sites in Utah as well,
24 but this -- presently we only have them in
25 southwestern Colorado. 29 of those tracts are under

1 lease, and two of them are not under lease.

2 Of those 29, there are eight mine lease
3 tracts that actually have mines on them. They're all
4 in stayed condition at this point, but they actually
5 do have a mine on them.

6 Most of you are probably familiar with the
7 area. Basically the majority of the lease tracts are
8 along Highway 141, south of -- well, basically south
9 of Gateway and north of Egnar.

10 And if you can't see that, I think it's in
11 your handout as well as on the map. And we can help
12 you look at those, if you have more interest in
13 specifically where the lease tracts are.

14 So where are we at presently? You'll notice
15 that NOI, the Notice of Intent to proceed with a
16 leasing program in 2007, was challenged, and
17 ultimately there were two orders: A lawsuit that
18 identified we had not adequately evaluated the NEPA
19 process or actively engaged or adequately engaged on
20 the Endangered Species Act.

21 Based on that, there were two orders that
22 stayed the existing lease program, and all lease
23 activities are currently stayed. The only thing we
24 can do on the lease programs now is anything that is
25 required to maintain it in a safe condition so there's

1 not a public nuisance or vegetative controls or things
2 that are required by the State of Colorado as a
3 landowner.

4 I'm personally very proud of the process
5 that we've taken in working with our cooperating
6 agencies. We have two federal agencies that we've
7 spent a lot of time with over the last 18 months, that
8 being the Bureau of Land Management under the
9 Department of Energy, as well as the Environmental
10 Protection Agency. They've given us a huge amount of
11 input on things to protect, areas to consider.

12 As well as the state agencies; we have three
13 state agencies that worked extremely hard in providing
14 us input and considerations as we analyze impacts in
15 that environment that's being impacted or could be
16 impacted potentially.

17 Counties: We have four counties actively
18 working with us. Here in Mesa County, Randy Price has
19 represented the County on providing input on
20 considerations that we have analyzed.

21 And we also have American tribal entities
22 that have participated, five Indian tribal governments
23 that also actively participate as cooperating
24 agencies.

25 While Section 7 of Consultation is not

1 directly linked to the PEIS that we're talking about
2 tonight, I thought it was important to kind of give
3 you a summary of where we're at with that Section 7
4 Consultation.

5 We did develop a biological assessment,
6 which basically looks at the endangered species that
7 are out there that could be impacted and evaluates
8 whether our action -- and that's based on each
9 alternative, determining those considerations -- how
10 would they impact the endangered species.

11 So basically that whole act says you cannot
12 take an action that would adversely modify the
13 critical habitat or eliminate the species.

14 We've been working with Fish and Wildlife
15 Service for about the last 12 months. We did develop
16 a biological assessment. We made a mistake, and in
17 your PEIS, it will tell you that we had -- for the
18 endangered species, there's a term they use called
19 "may affect," and we indicated that are "likely not to
20 adversely affect."

21 In our last Consultation, we recognized
22 that's a mistake, because Fish and Wildlife considers
23 any water depletion of the upper Colorado basin as an
24 adverse effect on the endangered species.

25 So I want you to just know that right up

1 front. We did make that mistake; we're making a
2 correction in our biological assessment with the Fish
3 and Wildlife Service on that particular issue.

4 So what about the environment; what did we
5 actually analyze? We got almost 1,200 pages of
6 information. It basically summarizes down into 14
7 resources areas. Anywhere from air quality and
8 acoustics to socioeconomics, environmental justice,
9 transportation -- that's a major one in this
10 particular case -- water resources, ecological
11 resources, and also cumulative impacts.

12 We'll talk a little bit about cumulative
13 impacts. But that's a requirement within NEPA law to
14 look at all the factors that could be considered and
15 that -- I guess I use the term is this the next piece
16 that would actually break the camel's back or do
17 something negative.

18 So you try to look at all the things that
19 happened and then analyze what -- above and beyond
20 that, what we've put on to that equation that the
21 environment has added, how has that impacted as a
22 total, a cumulative total.

23 We'll talk a little bit more about that in a
24 few minutes.

25 Actually, we're going talk about it right

1 now.

2 So in doing so, as it mentions here, we look
3 at the past, the present and foreseeable future
4 actions. And I would urge people, if you have not
5 spent much time on the cumulative impact, to take a
6 look at that section, because we think we've done a
7 pretty good job of knowing the area. But you know the
8 area much better than we do, and if there's things we
9 missed, especially in the foreseeable future that you
10 know about that we didn't, we'd love to hear about
11 that.

12 Also pretty cool, as you analyze impacts and
13 what might happen, it's to understand measures that
14 could minimize those impacts. And our cooperating
15 agencies helped a lot with this, especially the
16 wildlife groups and EPA as well. They provided us
17 information on how you might change, if you could have
18 a negative impact, what would it take to minimize that
19 or actually reduce that to almost nil.

20 I think in table, I think, 5.1 in the PEIS,
21 it talks about these mitigation measures. There's
22 basically 14 areas -- or 12 areas, excuse me, that
23 look at how do you mitigate potential impacts.

24 I guess I would say some would say, well,
25 those things might not happen out there. Well, there

1 are those things that are compliance; there are
2 federal, state or local regulations, there are those
3 things that we call mitigation measures, and those are
4 things we can put in the lease or are already in the
5 lease and we think is a critical part of doing the
6 business, using the leases as a proportionate tool and
7 a way to manage the program.

8 And then there are those things that are
9 called best management practices, things that the
10 industry does, things that people do as a routine
11 approach to doing this type of work.

12 So the alternatives. Somebody asked me
13 earlier which one of these does not include mining.
14 So that really is alternative 1. Alternative 1,
15 basically we would reclaim the mines that are out
16 there. I think there's nine mines on eight of these
17 tracts; those would be reclaimed, the program would
18 come to an end, and we would hold them in abeyance.

19 That would obviously change if you get
20 another PEIS or another action, but for this
21 particular evaluation, that would be a no mining
22 option.

23 Alternative 2 is similar to alternative 1,
24 except for once they were reclaimed, those existing
25 mines, they would be offered back to BLM under the

1 public domain, and then BLM would manage the lands in
2 accordance with their multi use program.

3 Again, the question is could they allow them
4 to be permitted to mine; the answer would be that
5 would be BLM's decision, not mine. But it is one of
6 the potential public uses.

7 Alternative 3 would continue to run the
8 program as we did prior to 2007. There were 13 lease
9 tracts under lease at that time, and they would
10 basically allow them to operate those 13 lease tracts
11 for 10 years or a foreseeable future, a reasonable
12 period after that.

13 Alternative 4, our preferred alternative,
14 would continue the lease program for 31 lease tracts
15 for the 10-year period or another reasonable period.

16 And alternative 5 is what we call a no-
17 action alternative. And that's because that's how
18 we're managing it right now today. There are 29
19 leases presently of the 31 lease tracts. And they
20 have a 10-year period. Most of those were -- all of
21 them, actually, were issued in 2008. So we would
22 continue to let them do whatever they could on the
23 lease tracts for the remainder of that 10-year period.

24 So the difference between 4 and 5 is really
25 a timing difference. Four allows you kind of to do it

1 over 10 years, versus alternative 5, which really says
2 you got to finish up by 2018, whatever you're going to
3 do on the lease tracts.

4 As I mentioned, our preferred alternative is
5 alternative 4. It allows the continued use of the
6 resource, after appropriate NEPA analysis and
7 evaluation -- and all of our evaluations, by the way,
8 you'll see in the PEIS, if you look at it, we evaluate
9 the process based on exploration, going out and
10 verifying whether you can put a mine on the lands, and
11 then ultimately mine development and operation, if
12 there was ever a mine, and then reclamation.

13 So all of the alternatives have one of those
14 three facets; alternative 1 and 2 have reclamation
15 only, the other three alternatives have all three
16 phases.

17 We assumed in that evaluation that there
18 would be 19 mines operating at the peak year at once,
19 so all of our transportation consideration and those
20 types of factors assume that.

21 The maximum number of mines that we ever saw
22 in -- I think it was 1980 -- in 1980, during the peak
23 of the uranium industry, we had 20 mines operating.
24 So we believe it could be fairly high. But this is
25 conservative; we went with a conservative approach.

1 Potential impacts. I'm not going to read
2 that to you; I'm going to summarize that basically
3 obviously alternative 1 and 2 are reclamation. While
4 we assume there's no impacts to that, there are
5 impacts to that as well, but they're not nearly as
6 aggressive as alternatives 3 and 4.

7 But in all cases, I think the impacts of --
8 we determine the impacts negligible to moderate.

9 Potential for cumulative impacts from the
10 various environmental issues adding a uranium lease
11 program; I think if I remember right, of the overall
12 domestic uranium, the peak we are around 2 and a half
13 to 5 percent of the total domestic uranium during the
14 peak in the 1980s.

15 But if you add the cumulative impact of the
16 Pinon Ridge Mill, other types of things within a 50-
17 mile radius of the lease tracts, we find that they
18 generally range from negligible to moderate, again, in
19 the overall contributions of the ULP program.

20 I see you shaking your head. That's why
21 we're here for comments.

22 And again, with the implementation of
23 compliance measures, mitigation measures, we believe
24 that all things would be in compliance with federal,
25 state, and local regulations.

1 So what are the next steps to this process?
2 Presently we are at the Draft PEIS. We are earnestly
3 interested in your comments this evening; I'll turn
4 the mic back to Chip here shortly.

5 But after we get those comments, what do we
6 do with them? We actually will develop a Final PEIS,
7 and from that, we'll incorporate not only your
8 comments, but our responses. There will be a response
9 document that identifies how we dispositioned those
10 comments, and then ultimately there will be a decision
11 made by DOE officials on what we call a Record of
12 Decision.

13 It takes all that information, the PEIS as
14 well as other factors, and says, What decision will we
15 make? How will we proceed? And that comes out as a
16 document called the Record of Decision.

17 So we anticipate the Final PEIS the latter
18 part of this year, and then early in 2014, we hope to
19 finalize a decision one way or the other on this
20 particular issue.

21 So with that, I guess I'll give you some
22 information. This is all available on the web site.
23 But my name is Ray Plienness, and you can provide
24 comments to either -- well, actually using the web
25 site in the bottom, that's probably the best way to

1 provide written comments.

2 We will accept comments until May 31;
3 originally we were May 15, but we extended it to May
4 31. If you have comments after that period, we would
5 also accept them and utilize them to the degree
6 possible. If we're already well past that, I mean, if
7 we got them very late, it would be hard to utilize
8 them in our analysis.

9 But if we have gone past and you want to
10 comment, it doesn't mean you can't comment, it just
11 means you might not get incorporated. But by May 31,
12 we'll be accepting comments.

13 With that, I'll turn it back to Chip. I
14 think he was correct in saying we're not here to
15 discuss and have a debate on impacts or evaluations,
16 we're really here to get your comments that we can put
17 into the public record.

18 So I want you to identify if there's any
19 questions on the process or how we proceed; I
20 definitely want to answer those so we can provide
21 those comments. But we're not really here to talk
22 back and forth about whether you agree or disagree
23 with the impacts. That will come during the comment
24 period.

25 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ray. That was Ray

1 Plieness. I thought that I might not have pronounced
2 it correctly one time tonight.

3 But we did have time for a few questions on
4 process. We want to make sure that you understand the
5 PEIS process that Ray just talked about. If you do
6 have questions about the information in the Draft
7 PEIS, Ray and his colleagues will be here after we
8 close the meeting tonight, so please talk to them
9 about any of those questions.

10 Does anybody have a question, a process
11 question before we go out to hear what your comments
12 might be?

13 Yes, ma'am. Let me come over there. And if
14 you could just introduce yourself so that the court
15 reporter can get your name.

16 Yes?

17 JODIE MCTAVISH: I'm Jodie McTavish, and my
18 question is is there a time when we can actually ask
19 questions about the presentation?

20 MR. CAMERON: You can ask questions about
21 the presentation after the public comments. Okay?
22 Unless you need to know something about the process;
23 we want to make sure that you understand the process.

24 MR. PLIENESS: Yeah, absolutely. We want to
25 answer all the questions, but we need to make sure we

1 give everybody a chance to provide their public
2 comments first, and then we would recommend we go back
3 to the posters and take time and answer technical
4 questions or other questions about the impacts,
5 analysis, or any of those particular specifics about
6 the actual PEIS itself.

7 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thank you. Anybody with
8 a process question? How the Programmatic Impact
9 Statement Process is conducted, when comments should
10 be submitted.

11 We're done with comments.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But if the comment is
13 not about anything, what is the process... (Inaudible)

14 MR. CAMERON: Well, the comments can be
15 about whatever you believe is in the Environmental
16 Impact Statement. We're making it --

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible)

18 MR. CAMERON: Exactly.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible)

20 MR. CAMERON: Exactly.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible)

22 MR. CAMERON: No, we're going to evaluate --
23 we need to get your name.

24 THE REPORTER: I need all of her questions.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Penny Hills.

1 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. PLIENESS: Maybe we should move into the
3 comment period and then we can hear the comments.
4 Let's do that. Unless there's some other question
5 about when do we need to provide comments, how can we
6 provide comments.

7 One of the things I would like to say -- I
8 don't know if Chip mentioned it, but some people do
9 not like to get up in front of the mic. I happen to
10 be one of those; I don't like to do it. I have to,
11 and I sure don't like to do it.

12 If you don't want to get up in front of the
13 mic, after the proceedings you can provide them to the
14 court reporter right here in the chair. So please
15 don't be intimidated by the mic. If it isn't your
16 style, you still have an opportunity to provide
17 comments, and you have an opportunity to do it by
18 written comments.

19 MR. CAMERON: And Penny, I know you signed
20 up to comment; we'll get to you and look forward to
21 hearing your comments.

22 And I think we probably should go to
23 comments right now.

24 MR. PLIENESS: That seems reasonable.

25 MR. CAMERON: And the first person I have is

1 Beverly Lyne.

2 BEVERLY LYNE: I'm Beverly Lyne, and I'm a
3 community health nurse. I teach community health
4 nursing in the BSN program. And I'd like to
5 acknowledge seven of my students -- eight of my
6 students who are here. Don't give them the answers to
7 the extra credit questions, please. That's a little
8 joke. Sorry.

9 I also wanted to acknowledge that I served
10 as one of the original members of the Rocky Flats
11 Citizens Advisory Board starting in 1993, so I was
12 part of that clean-up process there. So my area of
13 expertise is more plutonium than uranium.

14 Also as an area of expertise in
15 participatory research in doing community assessment
16 and analysis, particularly working with vulnerable
17 communities and hearing and coming to consensus about
18 community needs. Just as a little groundwork.

19 So I think basically I came here to learn
20 tonight and thank the DOE for holding the hearing here
21 -- it's convenient for me -- and also to give you a
22 perspective of a community health nurse, which
23 everyone is also happy to hear.

24 And also I would like to strongly encourage
25 that the process continue to include the following,

1 and that is the full involvement of communities'
2 public health professionals as well as the scientific
3 community to follow NEPA to the fullest extent in the
4 fullest intention of NEPA and including communities
5 and doing that analysis and decision making process.

6 Community assessment should provide a
7 complete assessment of the environmental issues around
8 the mines and the proposed mill to include the
9 community concerns in a way that is capturing
10 qualitative data in a way that can really inform our
11 decisions.

12 We need to have a current and explicitly
13 detailed characterization to monitor the situation and
14 the health risks that are currently posed by other
15 mediated sites as well as health risks associated with
16 each alternative and the phases of the alternatives in
17 a way that is based on our best knowledge of exposure
18 to uranium.

19 Finally, I would just refer you to the 1998
20 community assessment from the former Rocky Flats site.
21 The study utilized public health professionals to
22 produce a report that was highly useful to the DOE in
23 establishing clean-up.

24 So not the standards of the clean-up, but
25 the process around doing the clean-up and continued

1 management of the site.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you
4 very much.

5 Our next commenter is Kristin Pfaff.

6 KRISTIN PFAFF: Hi, I'm Kristin Pfaff, I'm a
7 nursing student at Colorado Mesa; I'm here with my
8 fellow students.

9 One of my fellow students, Choi, and I just
10 completed a report on the mine and its potential
11 impacts, and I wanted to echo what Beverly said and
12 just encourage a thorough investigation of all the
13 lingering potential human health threats that could
14 remain long after the mine is gone.

15 And I guess personally, I would bring up
16 that in my observations over the past 10 years, I've
17 noticed an increase in the intensity of the spring
18 dust storms that we have, and I'm hoping the
19 Environmental Impact Statement will focus some
20 research on the impacts of what is being carried in
21 the surrounding valleys during those storms. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Kristin.

24 And Thomas Acker?

25 THOMAS ACKER: I am interested in the aspect

1 related to how these activities will create issues for
2 our community. Right now we're trying to develop the
3 riverfront, the Las Colonias project. In interviewing
4 the community members from the way back in the '30s,
5 '40s and more recently, they talk about when they were
6 little kids playing in the tailings piles.

7 And we all know that there's a cancer rate
8 in our area that is doubled that of Colorado and also
9 four times that of the national rate.

10 These are issues that I think we should
11 consider, given what we're proposing, that we go back
12 to an energy source. Which in listening to the
13 Germans, where they have, you know, recognized that
14 this is a diminishing return, that it's a source that
15 they're trying to use less and less, recognizing the
16 difficulties with storage and all the other related
17 issues that this industry would create.

18 We are a community; I would hope that we
19 recognize we still have a legacy of lots of issues
20 that haven't been taken care of. And that is
21 something -- I think the most important thing that we
22 should consider here.

23 And finally, as a person living in a
24 democratic society, I have to question the process
25 here and ask, we've gotten to a point where we have a

1 preferred process, which is number 4. I have to ask
2 myself, the Department of Energy, if they've made up
3 their minds and there's a preferred process, I really
4 am curious to know how much impact any of our
5 statements will have on the decision making process.
6 It's a concern of mine as a small-d democrat. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Thomas. And I know
9 that the DOE staff and other experts will, when we
10 finish the meeting -- not only are you going to be
11 able to ask them questions about the information, but
12 they might want to explore some of the comments that
13 they've heard tonight such as that one. So thank you
14 very much for those comments.

15 We're going to go to Eric Niederkruger.

16 If you could come up to the podium?

17 ERIC NIEDERKRUGER: Good evening. I
18 submitted written comments, and I have just a few
19 brief comments now in person I'd like to say.

20 First off, I'd like to thank everybody who
21 came here tonight, despite the billions of dollars
22 that have been spent to keep you at home watching
23 television.

24 I get melancholy when I look around my
25 virtual neighborhood and I hear such bittersweet terms

1 bandied about such as "legacy." I've been very
2 blessed in my life and I very much want to implicate a
3 sense in my descendants of honor. Several generations
4 from now, may all our natives be remembered with honor
5 and joy.

6 Unfortunately, long before then, the true
7 scope of the Fukushima reactor meltdown from Japan has
8 begun to be felt in our Pacific Northwest and, indeed,
9 much of the world. It's a current event issue that is
10 being suppressed by the mainstream media that we
11 should all be very concerned about in addition to this
12 issue.

13 I'm not suggesting that uranium is fuel
14 incarnate; I am suggesting it is our biggest challenge
15 to fully remediate.

16 In sum, I'm not a big fan of big federal
17 government, and no energy source is more intertwined
18 with the big federal government than nuclear power.

19 This alone is enough for me, but there's so
20 much more. Remember the word "legacy." In this case,
21 it is a euphemism for toxic radioactive waste.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric.

24 We're going to go to Ryan Ellis next.

25 RYAN ELLIS: Hello, my name is Ryan Ellis.

1 I'm an environmental engineer for Energy Fuels. And
2 Energy Fuels has eight of the lease blocks that are
3 included in this program. I just want to state my
4 comment that these eight lease blocks provide a big
5 portion of our resources, and they're important to us
6 to help supply domestic uranium and provide jobs in
7 the community. Thank you.

8 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ryan.

9 Glen Miller, do you want to speak to us?

10 This is Glen Miller.

11 GLEN MILLER: I'm Glen Miller. I live in
12 Grand Junction. What was that radio show? "I use to
13 work in that town." I worked with the USGS Map and
14 Geology and whatnot in that area back a half century
15 ago. And I'll be brief.

16 I think we need to continue to allow DOE to
17 manage those leases, not BLM. A lot of people don't
18 agree with me, but I have some facts -- well, they
19 seem to be facts -- they're not from the federal
20 government, but the National Science Foundation that
21 energy from nuclear sources is our safest form of a
22 great volume amount of energy.

23 I'll give you some numbers: Mortality
24 rates. If nuclear is 1 in terms of mortality rate,
25 rooftop fatality, manufacturing, the whole thing --

1 people fall off roofs -- is five times as dangerous.

2 Wind is six times more dangerous; hydro is
3 15 times more dangerous. And I'll just mention coal,
4 and we've got a lot of coal. But coal is, in the
5 United States -- this is per megawatt produced --
6 1,600 times more dangerous in terms of fatalities.

7 We have a lot of uranium, and as far as I
8 can tell, some sort of nuclear power and solar power
9 is the future. We're not going to run out of it. If
10 we had (inaudible), I'm sure they're going to be
11 developed. That would increase uranium in the ground.
12 We have the factor -- the utility of it, a factor of
13 15.

14 So those are some things to think about in
15 the long term. It's safe and there's an awful lot of
16 it. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Than you, Glen.

18 Virgil Fenn?

19 VIRGIL FENN: That would be me. I'm up here
20 to appeal -- mainly I want to pitch a book. I'd like
21 you to open your mind, both sides of it there, and do
22 some research.

23 There is more misinformation --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Use the mic, Virgil. We
25 can't hear you.

1 MR. FENN: I'm appealing to both the
2 environmentalists and those saying we need more
3 energy, even if it's nuclear, to be more open minded
4 to kind of review your assumptions.

5 In particular, I want to try to get you to
6 read this book. It just came out this last fall, so
7 you won't find it in the library yet. It did come out
8 in paperback at 25 bucks. Search for "Thorium:
9 Energy Cheaper than Coal." This talks about a lot of
10 things we're talking about here with facts, with
11 references, and all of that.

12 One example is talking about the linear no-
13 threshold hypothesis when it comes to damage from
14 nuclear radiation. There's no doubt that extreme
15 radiation is very deadly. So is a whole lot of water.

16 And you just assume that the less radiation,
17 the damage just goes down to zero. You come up with
18 the wrong answer. It turns out that low radiation
19 can, over a long period of time, can, in fact, be
20 beneficial. There's proof of that.

21 And that's all in this book and in the
22 references. I would just please ask you to do some
23 more homework. This whole subject is a lot like sex
24 for teenagers. You know, you go to your teenager and
25 say let's talk about sex, they say, Sure, Pop, what do

1 you want to know? But in fact, they really don't know
2 it all yet. Don't assume that you know it all yet
3 either, please. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

5 Janet Johnson?

6 JANET JOHNSON: I think it's important for
7 us to remember this evening that our area has
8 suffered, for 50 years, a disproportionality in the
9 cost of what happens when you are the front end and
10 the back end of the uranium industry.

11 The costs have been to us, so far, on the
12 DOE minds, to remediate, 1.25 million. The mills in
13 Colorado, in our Uravan mineral belt area, \$1 billion
14 to the tax payers. The rate of compensation that we
15 pay out to people who have died or their families of
16 the people who have died or gotten sick, that's in the
17 millions of dollars already. And we'll just continue
18 growing, because we continue -- we have to continue
19 with the people who are the nuclear workers.

20 The Legacy Management Program itself is paid
21 for by taxpayer dollars. These are initial costs,
22 these aren't costs that will be going on in
23 perpetuity.

24 The costs to us have also been our health,
25 our economies, our environment, our waters.

1 Our goal here is really to ask for clean-up
2 this evening. And I will explain that to you.

3 Also I would like to state to you that I'm
4 asking tonight for a new PEIS to be released, a PEIS
5 that would actually have a substantial analysis of
6 what we know of the people who live here in the area
7 and not someone who is (inaudible) in numbers that are
8 inconsequential to our reality today.

9 I would say that I'm asking for that,
10 because we have no present evidence of best practices
11 being used on these lease tracts at this time, at this
12 point in time.

13 The lease -- the PEIS is actually to me, a
14 group in Grand Junction. It's very dismissive. I've
15 always lived in a uranium town, a uranium mill town.
16 It's dismissive after 40 years that have gone into
17 what we are today, and we are not what we could be
18 today. We're still depressed because of the uranium
19 industry.

20 We still live under the stigma of it, and we
21 still -- I feel that this -- the PEIS is insensitive
22 to the economic realities of what we face on the
23 western slope today when it comes to the uranium
24 industry.

25 I think also the reason I would ask for a

1 renewed PEIS, building upon what they have done now,
2 but actually being in the field, is that we when we're
3 examining the options, even the two options that --
4 the first that say they will do reclamation, there is
5 no standard of reclamation suggested. There is no
6 procedure that these mines and these lease tracts will
7 be monitored completely.

8 And we have seen at this time there's been
9 no active monitoring; there's been no active or
10 substantive evidence that there's any standard at all.

11 The legacy that we leave is critical to us
12 too. And how we manage the legacy that we have of the
13 uranium industry is very important. We feel that each
14 generation should endeavor to preserve and protect the
15 foundations of life and well being for those who come
16 after.

17 To produce mismanaged and abandoned
18 substances that damage following generations is
19 unacceptable. We must accept responsibility for the
20 nuclear materials left to us and those produced in our
21 lifetime.

22 As we study the Draft PEIS, we need to keep
23 in mind we do not want our nuclear past and present to
24 become the future.

25 We do have to leave an ethical legacy. And

1 the Draft PEIS contains some information that helps us
2 see our present situation. The DOE developed the
3 proposed alternatives by considering the need for
4 uranium reserves to support energy development. And
5 yet, in another portion of the PEIS, we see that the
6 DOE uranium mining, as a quote, on the DOE ULP lease
7 tracts would have little or no impact on the nuclear
8 fuel cycle, because a small percentage of uranium
9 would not dictate whether or not uranium ore
10 processing would continue.

11

12 This tells us that the ores on the Uravan
13 mineral belt are inconsequential to you as the DOE,
14 but they are consequential to us. The ores -- the
15 wastes are very consequential to us.

16 What we want is we want reclamation and we
17 want it to a standard. The Draft PEIS also states
18 that our role of -- that one role of DOE is to monitor
19 and track market prices, spot and long-term, for
20 uranium oxide and vanadium oxide and keep abreast of
21 activities occurring within the uranium and vanadium
22 industries.

23 Later in the document we see in the comments
24 that they couldn't analyze the PEIS -- or the original
25 commenting period concerning that the instability of

1 uranium market has been depressed since 2007. There
2 was a blip. It's been depressed -- it's been depressed
3 since the 1980s.

4 And we see that it will not be considered,
5 because it's outside of the scope of their
6 administration. That wouldn't seem to ring true.

7 MR. CAMERON: Janet, I'm going to have to
8 ask you to sum up for us.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Okay, I'll sum up what I want.
10 I want a new PEIS; we want it with the standard of
11 reclamation, and not speculative, but market demand
12 based leasing. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 Is it Dave? Dave Cak?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cale?

16 MR. CAMERON: Dave Cak?

17 DAVE CALE: Hi, my name is Dave Cale. I
18 speak as a little guy, small citizen of the community
19 who believes still in the right to the availability
20 and the purity of our air, our water, our soil, or
21 ecological balance.

22 I don't see -- and maybe I overlooked it,
23 but I don't see anything addressing in the PEIS
24 talking about agriculture in the Uravan belt, which
25 probably has changed over the years since the original

1 leases. I don't see a lot of discussion about
2 existing businesses and how these will be impacted by
3 the plan to open up these leases.

4 My biggest concern with this is two things:
5 Risk and trust. And I think given historically
6 looking at undertakings like this and the promises
7 that are made, I know there's also bigger, newer,
8 better, and it's always for a reason, a job, or
9 whatever; but in hindsight, it's always a different
10 story. Clean-ups, the expenses, it's always a
11 different picture.

12 I would vote for alternative 1, reclaiming
13 and remediating the existing territory back to its
14 natural state as close as it can be made.

15 Finally, I just want to say that, you know,
16 there's always the argument for jobs, which is great,
17 but I think that needs to be put in perspective. And
18 is the value of the jobs greater than the tax dollars
19 that are spent to clean up, the messes that are made;
20 is it greater than the value of the lost jobs that may
21 come from the agricultural community, the existing
22 businesses, the existing industries that are in place,
23 and is the value of the jobs greater than the
24 environmental degradation that results from reopening
25 the mines? Thank you.

1 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Dave.

2 Next we're going go to Eric Rechel.

3 ERIC RECHEL: Thank you all for coming out
4 this evening. This is just great.

5 One of the first slides that was presented
6 up here -- I guess "slides" is an old term -- was that
7 this process is for domestic use. I would like to
8 know what kind of enforcement authority the DOE has to
9 make sure that Energy Fuels doesn't sell to the
10 highest bidder in China or India. And if it finds its
11 way to China or India, what kind of (inaudible) does
12 it take on Energy Fuels? Because I'm sure China will
13 pay a lot more for uranium than the U.S.

14 will.

15 So what kind of enforcement authority do we
16 have to make sure this is domestic use?

17 I'm in favor of alternative 2, which is to
18 give the land back to the BLM. They've had a lot of
19 experience in reclamation and multiple use, and so I
20 favor alternative 2.

21 I'm also in favor of a new PEIS, as stated
22 by Janet to look over some of the critical aspects
23 that I think were ignored.

24

25 One of the aspects, I think, that is ignored

1 was that we look at this list of aspects that was put
2 on the board. And one was the socioeconomic aspect.
3 I demand that in the alternative there's like a \$2
4 million bond of Energy Fuels to do what? To help the
5 economy and communities survive when they go bust.
6 Because they will go bust. And they'll be stuck out
7 there with all this stuff out there and all the
8 economic travesty when they go bust.

9 Why? It happens all the time. We need a \$2
10 million bond to help this be able to survive and it
11 doesn't go bust.

12 Next I wish the whole community would have a
13 bigger vision of nuclear power, like Germany and
14 Japan, where we don't need nuclear power to survive.
15 We have other alternatives to do it.

16 We should do the same; we just need a bigger
17 vision.

18 And last I would say that Union of Concerned
19 Scientists in this country has stated there is no safe
20 level of radiation. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Eric, for those
22 comments.

23 And our next commenter is Claudette,
24 Claudette Konola.

25 CLAUDETTE KONOLA: I will probably end up

1 providing written comments. I didn't actually come
2 here with prepared comments, although I have been
3 thinking about this a lot.

4 I would support -- to the extent that I
5 support any of the proposals, I would support
6 alternative number 1, which basically reclaims the
7 land and manages it.

8 My problem is I don't know who I trust; I
9 don't know if I trust the BLM or if I trust the DOE.
10 And let me explain to you why I say that. I've just
11 recently read a book that I highly recommend to
12 everybody -- I've been telling the story to everybody
13 -- called Full Body Burden, Living in the Shadow of
14 Nuclear Rocky Flats.

15 It was a very frightening book for me,
16 because I grew up in the shadow of Rocky Flats. I
17 grew up in Arvada, Colorado, which is where the author
18 of this particular book lived and where she grew up.

19 And what I learned from reading that book is
20 that the DOE isn't always very trustworthy. And in
21 fact, when they started talking about the clean-up of
22 Rocky Flats, and when they saw how polluted it was,
23 not with uranium but with plutonium, they decided they
24 couldn't afford to clean it up.

25 And so instead of trying to figure out how

1 to afford to clean it up, they simply raised the
2 standard of acceptable radiation.

3 My fear is that your idea of remediation may
4 not be remediation that is safe for people who
5 recreate and live around uranium mills and uranium
6 tailings.

7 I'm particularly concerned because I am a
8 cancer survivor, and I would like to know that future
9 generations are not exposed to the kinds of radiation
10 levels that are going to give them a higher risk of
11 suffering from this disease.

12 I have other problems. The Colorado River
13 has recently been reported to be the most endangered
14 river in the U.S. And mostly that has to do with the
15 amount of water that is going down the river based on
16 droughts and those kinds of things.

17 But we live in a very arid area. Everything
18 about uranium takes water, and I cannot imagine why we
19 would want to continue, in this area, sacrificing our
20 water that we need. I mean, humans cannot live
21 without water. Farmers cannot farm without water. I
22 cannot understand why we would even consider
23 sacrificing it to continue mining low-grade uranium in
24 the Uravan belt. Thank you.

25 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks. Thanks,

1 Claudette.

2 Benita Phillips?

3 BENITA PHILLIPS: Hi, my name is Benita
4 Phillips. I'm also an RN, and I'm President of
5 Western Colorado Congress in Mesa County.

6 Not to be redundant, I think a lot of what
7 has been said has been said very well. I'm in favor
8 of alternative 6, which is the one that Janet brought
9 up; a whole new PEIS needs to be done. And I just --
10 it was the first time I really looked at the table
11 that talks about definition of impact levels, and
12 under Human Health, it says not applicable, not
13 applicable, not applicable, not applicable at every
14 level.

15 And then it says human health potential
16 impacts are discussed relative to regulatory limits.
17 And Claudette just got through saying the regulatory
18 limits can be changed.

19 So what we need to look at in terms of human
20 health here, long-term human health, we're not talking
21 just this generation, we're talking multigenerational
22 human health, because we know these things linger for
23 a few thousand years.

24 And I just happened to, before I left home,
25 pull out a study out of NIOSH that was talking about a

1 study that was done that was finished back in around
2 mid 1975, I think it was. And they were talking about
3 lung cancers.

4 And this is just in wide uranium miners:
5 They found that lung cancers were -- it was expected
6 at 64 deaths, they found 371; that means six times
7 more lung cancers than what was expected.

8 Pneumoconiosis, expected two deaths but found 41.
9 That's 21 times the deaths that were expected.

10 Tuberculosis, three and a half times the
11 number of deaths; emphysema, 22 times the number of
12 deaths.

13 And that's just the beginning of this study.
14 And this was published by the U.S. Government in the
15 NIOSH.

16 So basically what I see here is a lack of
17 follow-through on process. In nursing, when you go in
18 and you evaluate a patient; they come in and they're
19 sick, you evaluate them, you make a care plan, you
20 follow up the care plan, you evaluate your care plan
21 and you discharge a patient and you do follow-up.

22 This study does not have any follow-up.
23 There's nothing that's been done in the uranium
24 business that supports follow-up.

25 I would suggest that Energy Fuels is nothing

1 but a boondoggle, that uranium business is nothing but
2 the taxpayer boondoggle, because all of these
3 companies are getting subsidized either by the
4 Canadian government or our government. And I, as a
5 taxpayer, am tired of paying for these companies to
6 exist. They need to be standalones, support
7 themselves.

8 And I think Eric made a mistake when he said
9 it should be a \$2 million bond. I think he meant to
10 say \$2 billion bond.

11 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Benita.

12 And Mark Collins?

13 MARK COLLINS: I have six questions for
14 everybody to consider and not to be answered now.

15 Does radioactive material cause DNA in
16 people to mutate? Can radioactive material become a
17 lot more dangerous than radioactive from carbon
18 monoxide gas, similar to volcanic elements originally?

19 If there is a natural disaster at a large
20 nuclear waste dump, such as a volcanic eruption, could
21 all life on the planet be gone?

22 If one tiny radioactive particle becomes
23 attached to a person or is inside of a person, will
24 that particle remain radioactive and cause cancer?

25 Why does a nuclear plant scan employees for

1 radiation contamination?

2 Can uranium or any radioactive material in
3 medical machines or scanning machines become another
4 element, still radioactive and unstable, that could
5 explode those radioactive particles? In other words,
6 can uranium become another natural radioactive
7 element?

8 These are questions that might be answered,
9 however, without provable records with the public
10 directly involved in those records established. The
11 records or answers are not believable, at least to me.

12 If there is a group or individual that would
13 like to talk to me afterwards for solutions to
14 radioactive material and to assist the Government, we
15 can do that.

16 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark.

17 And now we're going to hear from Penny
18 Hills.

19 PENNY HILLS: I don't have a prepared
20 statement.

21 MR. CAMERON: You don't need to have a
22 prepared statement. If you want to offer your
23 thoughts and feelings, that's fine too.

24 PENNY HILLS: I would like to say that at
25 the moment I don't have a job. I used to have a job

1 in this place here, a pretty good job and I liked it a
2 lot. But I'm retired, so I'm sympathetic to the
3 people who want jobs. When you need a job, you need a
4 job, and there's no question about that. Problem is
5 what job, and what are the outcomes of that job? And
6 do you have time to think about it?

7 When you're looking for a job, can you look
8 at something like when I first came here, I was taken
9 to the races. It was a horse race. It was great.
10 Everybody was very excited, and the horses were
11 running around.

12 And uranium was a big deal, and everybody
13 loved it. And there was a boom in uranium; there was
14 lots of singing and dancing, and people had jobs.

15 But even today, you can see in the newspaper
16 the ads for the uranium miners that are entitled to
17 care because they got sick. Mining is a tough job,
18 and uranium is especially tough because of everything
19 that goes with it. So it's not only what will get into
20 the water, God forbid, I mean, we've got Parachute
21 Creek, that's enough -- but uranium is going to get
22 into the water.

23 But what about the legacy? Legacy is
24 supposed to be a good thing. Like there should be
25 more singing and dancing. More horse races. Yes.

1 But not necessarily poison. What good is that doing
2 us? Why don't we clean up the poison first and then
3 have a big party?

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Penny. And next
5 we're going to hear from, is it Pier?

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm not going to...

7 MR. CAMERON: No? Okay.

8 Is there anybody else that wants to comment
9 that had not signed up yet? Anybody out here that
10 wants to make a comment to us?

11 Yes. Can you come up?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

13 MR. CAMERON: And just introduce yourself to
14 us, please.

15 CHOI WONG: Hi, my name is Choi Wong, I'm a
16 nursing student from Colorado Mesa University. I am
17 not prepared for this speech. I am from China. I
18 moved here seven years ago, because I think Colorado
19 is a real pretty place, and all the residents here are
20 really nice.

21 And recently my classmate and I have done
22 research, a project on the uranium mining in Paradox,
23 Colorado. And I researched Energy Fuels as my
24 company, and I want to understand how the company
25 impacts the environment.

1 And after looking at the Energy Fuels home
2 page, I understand that they will bring jobs to
3 Colorado. And I really appreciate that, because they
4 want to help us out when economy is really bad.

5 But at the same time, it's really important
6 for us to keep in mind the long-term effect of the
7 uranium mining.

8 The jobs will bring money to the economy for
9 a short term, but it's really important for us to
10 think about will this money help the residents of
11 Colorado to pay for their healthcare causes when they
12 are diagnosed with cancer or anything related to the
13 mining.

14 And I just thought that is important for us
15 to think about the short-term economy impact compared
16 to a long-term healthcare impact.

17 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

18 Does anybody else want to make a comment?
19 And let's go to you first; come up and introduce
20 yourself, please.

21 And then we'll go to you.

22 JODIE MCTAVISH: My name is Jodie McTavish,
23 and I worked at the Department of Energy as support
24 services in the Laboratory. And we spent years
25 analyzing the samples and dealing with the remediation

1 and clean-up, and it's still not all cleaned up.

2 So we're spending -- or we have spent
3 millions and millions of dollars trying to clean up
4 this mess.

5 I do want to make a couple of comments about
6 previous comments that were made. One was about being
7 open to other technologies. I believe what the
8 gentleman is referring to is thorium powered generated
9 plants. But we're not talking about thorium here,
10 we're talking about uranium.

11 Yes, it's worth pursuing the thorium issue,
12 but that's not the topic this evening.

13 I also want to make a comment that was made
14 to me years ago by a gentleman from a Canadian company
15 who was here. His comment was, is that one of the
16 reasons they like to do business in the United States
17 is that our regulations are much less rigorous than
18 they are in Canada, so they were more than willing to
19 want to come here and develop our resources rather
20 than doing business in their own country.

21 And I think that the health issues and the
22 long-term impacts are not being addressed. I think
23 the gentleman came up and spoke about comments, and he
24 was making statistics about safety issues. Those are
25 only safety issues in the processing. This isn't the

1 long-term health effects that affect people and create
2 cancer and all the other health issues that are
3 related to this industry.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Jodie.

5 And yes, ma'am, would you join us up here?

6 JOAN WOODWARD: Good evening. I hadn't
7 planned to speak tonight, partly because I don't have
8 much of a voice. So I'll make this very brief.

9 The individual who's sitting with the
10 environmental engineer, Energy Fuels, I believe was
11 the name, he said there were two reasons, as I recall,
12 why the project should go forward: One was the need
13 for jobs and the other was a need for more energy
14 production.

15 In terms of the need for energy production
16 domestically, my understanding is we don't need
17 uranium; we have more than enough other resources.
18 The natural gas industry is doing very well. We don't
19 need uranium here with all of the consequences.

20 In terms of the jobs, I don't think there
21 are that many jobs that would actually be generated at
22 this point in opening up some of these leases. I also
23 think we could put those people to work much better in
24 terms of alternative energy rather than uranium.

25 I am concerned as well about water -- other

1 people have commented on that -- both the extraction
2 of water for processing and the pollution of water.
3 It doesn't take much at all, so I'm very concerned
4 about that.

5 Taxpayers always seem to end up footing the
6 bill for the nuclear industry. I don't think you can
7 cite any mine or mill or plant that the taxpayers
8 didn't have to come up with the money to pay for an
9 awful lot of it.

10 I agree with Eric that a very substantial
11 bond would absolutely have to be a requirement before
12 we can even think about doing this.

13 Finally, I don't understand why we're even
14 talking about leasing at this point when we have not
15 accomplished the reclamation on any of these sites.
16 There has been virtually nothing done on a lot of
17 these sites in terms of soil and waters. So until we
18 can have it proven to us this is in good faith, and
19 can, in fact, be done safely, we shouldn't be
20 considering new leases. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

22 Do we have any final comments? Okay. Well,
23 thank you all. And I think Ray would like to say a
24 few words in closing to all of you. And the
25 Department and experts are going to be here if you

1 want to talk to them about specific issues in
2 question.

3 Ray?

4 MR. PLIENESS: I started this meeting trying
5 to establish a 1,200-page document, and what is
6 missing is probably one of the most critical pieces,
7 which is the comments that you provided this evening
8 and we'll get over the next couple of meetings; we
9 have three more public hearings and always written
10 comments.

11 Any process, whether we like the way the
12 U.S. Government works or not, it cannot be effective
13 without that public participation. Somebody mentioned
14 -- and I won't go into any comments except for will we
15 consider these comments when we make our decision;
16 have we already made our decision.

17 I personally can tell you I won't be the one
18 that makes the decision, but I will influence that
19 decision, and I will assure you that the comments that
20 were provided are analyzed, evaluated, and considered
21 by our decision makers.

22 And so I can't tell you if they'll change
23 their minds, but I can tell you they will have the
24 ability to understand what you thought from this
25 meeting and the future comments.

1 So I thank you again for coming out and
2 spending the time. Please take the time later to ask
3 specific questions because that is why we came.

4 BENITA PHILLIPS: Who is actually
5 responsible for making the final decision?

6 MR. PLIENESS: To be honest with you,
7 whether that will be the Assistant Secretary of Energy
8 or that will be my -- one of our key players within
9 the Office of Legacy Management, my belief is that
10 will be at the Assistant Secretary level within the
11 Department of Energy.

12 And I actually hope to make that clearer
13 sometime in the near future.

14 MR. CAMERON: That's a good example of a
15 process question. Good question.

16 And with that, we're adjourned formally, but
17 Ray and his colleagues are here to answer any
18 questions that you might have. And thank you very
19 much for respecting each other and the guidelines.

20 ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

21 JACOB CARPENTER: The legacy of uranium in
22 western Colorado and Colorado in general is a terrible
23 legacy. The DOE was talking about royalties of 65
24 million for managing the leases; the clean-up of the
25 town of Uravan, just Uravan alone was 120 million.

1 And that isn't counting the grief from family members
2 losing grandfathers, like I myself did.

3 And the DOE should turn over the management
4 of this property to the BLM. That's the only option
5 out there. We should not subsidize an industry and
6 then clean up their mess as well. It's just a poor
7 choice. Thank you.

8 (No further public comment; hearing
9 recessed at 8:58 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF COLORADO)
) ss
2 COUNTY OF MESA)

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4 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

5 I, Elizabeth W. Schnittker, do hereby certify that
6 I am a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
7 Public within the State of Colorado.

8 I further certify that these proceedings were
9 taken in shorthand by me at the time and place herein
10 set forth, that they were thereafter reduced to
11 typewritten form, and that the foregoing constitutes a
12 true and correct transcript.

13 I further certify that I am not related to,
14 employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or
15 attorneys herein, nor otherwise interested in the
16 result of the within action.

17 In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature
18 this 2nd day of May, 2013.

19

20

21

22 _____
Elizabeth W. Schnittker, RPR

23

24

25 My commission expires October 12, 2015.

<p><u> </u> \$ \$1 33:13 \$2 40:3,9 45:9,10 \$65 9:19</p> <p><u> </u> 1 1 7:22 15:14,23 17:14 18:3 30:24 38:12 41:6 1,200 13:5 1,200-page 53:5 1,600 31:6 1.25 33:12 10 16:11 17:1 26:16 10-year 16:15,20,23 12 12:15 14:22 56:25 120 54:25 12th 1:16 13 16:8,10 14 13:6 14:22 141 10:8 1455 1:16 15 20:3 31:3,13 18 11:7 19 17:18 1940s 9:5 1942 8:7 1948 9:7 1975 44:2 1980 9:12 17:22 1980s 18:14 37:3 1993 24:11 1996 9:15 1998 25:19</p> <p><u> </u> 2</p>	<p>2 7:22 9:3 15:23 17:14 18:3,12 39:17,20 20 17:23 2005 8:11 2007 10:16 16:8 37:1 2008 9:16 16:21 2013 1:9,14 56:18 2014 19:18 2015 56:25 2018 17:2 21 44:9 22 1:9,14 44:11 25 32:8 25,000 9:22 29 9:25 10:2 16:18 2nd 56:18</p> <p><u> </u> 3 3 7:23 16:7 18:6 30s 27:4 31 9:9,21 16:14,19 20:2,4,11 371 44:6</p> <p><u> </u> 4 4 7:23 16:13,24 17:5 18:6 28:1 40 7:10 34:16 40s 27:5 41 9:18 44:8 48 9:9</p> <p><u> </u> 5 5 7:23 16:16,24 17:1 18:13 5.1 14:20 50 18:16 33:8</p>	<p><u> </u> 6 6 43:8 62 9:7 64 44:6 65 54:23</p> <p><u> </u> 7 7 11:25 12:3 7:00 1:15 74 9:10</p> <p><u> </u> 8 8.1 9:17 8:58 55:9</p> <p><u> </u> 9 9:00 5:20 94 9:10</p> <p><u> </u> A abandoned 35:17 abeyance 15:18 ability 53:24 able 28:11 40:10 abreast 36:20 absolutely 21:24 52:11 accept 20:2,5 35:19 acceptable 42:2 accepting 20:12 accomplished 52:15 accordance 16:2 Acker 26:24,25 acknowledge 24:5,9 acoustics 13:8 acres 9:22</p>	<p>acronym 2:8 acronyms 2:8 act 7:15 8:12 10:20 12:11 action 7:4 8:20 12:8,12 15:20 16:17 56:16 actions 14:4 active 35:9 actively 10:19 11:17,23 activities 10:23 27:1 36:21 actual 22:6 actually 7:12 9:1,2 10:3,4 13:5,16,25 14:19 16:21 19:6,24 21:18 34:5,13 35:2 41:1 51:21 54:4,12 add 18:15 added 13:21 adding 18:10 addition 29:11 ADDITIONAL 54:20 addressed 50:22 addressing 37:23 adequately 10:18,19 adjourned 54:16 administered 9:8 administration 37:6 ads 47:16 adverse 12:24 adversely 12:12,20 advice 3:7 advisors 3:14</p>
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