

DOE ULP PEIS Public Scoping Meeting
August 10, 2011

IN RE:

Notice of Intent to Prepare the Draft Programmatic
Environmental Impact Statement for the Uranium Leasing
Program.

PURSUANT TO NOTICE to all parties in interest, the
above-entitled matter came on for public hearing on
Wednesday, August 10, 2011, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at
411 W. 2nd Street, Naturita, Colorado, before Lisa
Persichitte Reed, Certified Realtime Reporter within
and for the State of Colorado.

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

2 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Good evening, and
3 welcome to this public scoping meeting.

4 All right. Let's start over. Good evening,
5 and welcome to this public meeting for the notice of
6 intent to prepare the draft Programmatic Environmental
7 Impact Statement for the Uranium Leasing Program.

8 The development of a Programmatic
9 Environmental Impact Statement, or PEIS, as I'll call
10 it the rest of the evening, for this project by the
11 Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management is
12 required by the National Environmental Policy Act, or
13 NEPA.

14 My name is Deborah Sullivan, and I will serve
15 as your facilitator for this event. My role is to
16 ensure that this meeting runs on schedule, and that
17 everyone has an opportunity to speak who wishes to
18 speak. I am with the Department of Energy's Office of
19 Legacy Management.

20 There are two main purposes for tonight's
21 meeting. First, to provide you an overview of the
22 purpose, need, proposed action and proposed
23 alternatives being considered for evaluation, and how
24 you can participate in this NEPA process.

25 Second, and most importantly, is to receive

1 and record your formal comments on the scope of the
2 draft PEIS. We anticipate that this will begin at
3 approximately 7:15 tonight.

4 The agenda for tonight's meeting reflects
5 these purposes. We will begin with DOE's overview
6 presentation by Laura Kilpatrick regarding the proposed
7 scope of the PEIS, as indicated in the notice of
8 intent. Laura is the Department of Energy's program
9 director for the Uranium Leasing Program.

10 If you would like to provide oral comments at
11 this meeting and have not as yet signed up, please do
12 so in the back of the room at the registration table.
13 Your comments will be transcribed by the court reporter
14 and made part of the administrative record.

15 We'll now proceed with the DOE overview
16 presentation. Laura.

17 MS. LAURA KILPATRICK: Thank you very much,
18 and thank you very much to all of you for coming this
19 evening. We very much appreciate it.

20 First, I basically have to just reiterate
21 what Deborah said. We're going to talk about the
22 purpose and need for our actions this evening. We're
23 going to talk about the proposed actions, which in this
24 case are the five actions we've proposed. But since
25 we're looking for proposals from you, that is really

1 the point of the meeting.

2 Then we're going to get into a little bit of
3 background on the Uranium Leasing Program. We're going
4 to specifically talk about the five alternatives that
5 we did propose in the notice of intent. And then we're
6 going to set out for you the next steps, which, aside
7 from the fact the comments are due September 9th,
8 doesn't involve dates. So anyway, those are the next
9 steps, which, depending on the number of alternatives,
10 depending how long it takes, we don't know the time
11 frame specifically.

12 So I'm assuming all of you are aware that in
13 2007, we completed a Programmatic Environmental
14 Assessment. And the result of that assessment was that
15 we received an extended leasing program, which meant
16 that in addition to the 13 leases that we had, we did
17 solicitation for 18 additional ones. And then based on
18 the entities that offered us the highest percentage,
19 they are the ones that got the lease. So basically
20 what happened was that we did the solicitation, and we
21 now have, at that point, 31 leases.

22 The PEA, however, the Programmatic
23 Environmental Assessment, anticipated that there would,
24 of course, be continuing NEPA.

25 (Lights were turned off and on.)

1 MS. LAURA KILPATRICK: So anyway, it was
2 always anticipated that as soon as we started getting
3 exploration plans of any size, and certainly once we
4 got plans, we would have to do additional NEPA. You
5 can arguably do an Environmental Assessment potentially
6 for each mining plan, but you have 31 leases. That's a
7 lot, it's a lot of money, and it's also hard to do.

8 So we needed to decide what our future
9 actions were going to start to look like, and it seemed
10 to us that in light of the fact that we were going to
11 do future NEPA, given the fact that the price of -- I
12 went to the wrong page. In light of the fact that we
13 obviously had NEPA, the price of uranium was relatively
14 low, it's around -- in the low 50s, the Pinon Ridge
15 Mill has not been built, and it started looking like we
16 were going to receive a number of exploration plans
17 and, hopefully, mining plans, we needed to do NEPA.

18 So what we ended up doing was decide what we
19 could think of as the way the program could either
20 continue or not, so that kind of was our job. That's
21 why we put out the notice of intent, which was the
22 first thing.

23 So a little history about the program. I'm
24 sure all of you know, the program started in the late
25 '40s. And initially, we (inaudible) that the Atomic

1 Energy Commission received about 700,000 acres of
2 withdrawn lands from BLM for uranium and vanadium
3 leasing purposes. The AEC, the Atomic Energy
4 Commission, and the USGS went out and looked at all the
5 lands, and determined 25,000 acres were the best. The
6 remainder of those acres were returned to BLM, and what
7 we continued to have was the 25,000 acres.

8 The program has run three times for the
9 current one, which started in 2008 after we did that
10 solicitation, then we executed leases for the companies
11 that had highest bids. Those leases are currently, at
12 the moment, fully paid. The royalties are paid up to
13 the moment. However, the companies have been told that
14 we need to have them sort of sit in abeyance until we
15 figure out what is going on.

16 So -- and just so you all know, the program
17 basically just -- sorry, the administrative portion of
18 the program, just the leases, was estimated to cost
19 about \$500,000. So the royalties were determined based
20 on the number of acres that you had, total of 25,000
21 acres, proportionately compared to \$500,000. We had
22 one lease out of the 31 that was too close to the
23 river, so it was not leased, so the total was \$488,900.
24 And the vast majority of that money goes straight to
25 the treasury. A slight amount of money is then

1 received, because we occasionally allow work to be done
2 in lieu of cleanup work, in lieu of receiving money,
3 but all the money is with the treasury.

4 So then we get to the next part of the slide.
5 That money has to go to the administration program.
6 After there is actually production, then the royalty
7 amount that the companies bid, basically, solicitation
8 was the amount that we, the taxpayers, received based
9 on production, and that money goes straight to
10 treasury, okay.

11 So there were all kinds of leases, so from
12 '48 forward, there was 8.1 million pounds of uranium
13 (inaudible), there was 41.7 million pounds of vanadium,
14 and we generated \$65 million in royalties that went to
15 the U.S. Treasury. And that doesn't happen with BLM,
16 so it's really pretty wonderful, actually. These are
17 very high-producing leases and have great potential, so
18 that's why (inaudible).

19 Okay. So like I said, we have 31 leases, so
20 the 25,000 acres. There are currently 29. One, like I
21 mentioned, was not leased, 7 and 7A were combined. So -
22 - and one additional lease is currently inactive
23 because the royalty wasn't paid.

24 So there are eight of the original 13 leases
25 that have existing mines on them that are in standby

1 status. Like I said, nobody can produce.

2 Now, please pull out of your package -- there
3 is a map. It might be folded, but at the very least,
4 you can see this one, it's on Page 4, Slide 7. If you
5 look at the slide or the picture on the left, you can
6 see the rectangle where the entire area is located for
7 our leases. On the right-hand side, you can see that
8 (inaudible) it's showing individual lease tracts. The
9 rectangle on the right comprises approximately 830,000
10 acres.

11 So when you look at those little squares,
12 which are the 31 leases, you can see that, basically,
13 there is a relationship there. Our percent of acreage,
14 the 25,000, is 3 percent of the total, okay, but it has
15 really a huge capacity. Of the remaining acreage, if
16 you were to subdivide it, two-thirds of that acreage of
17 the 830,000 acres is BLM, 10 percent of that is the
18 Forest Service. The remaining third, if we were to
19 take our pieces out, is private, state, and mixed
20 ownership.

21 And I really don't want to insult everybody
22 by reading all these proposed alternatives. You have a
23 copy, obviously, in your package, but basically, the
24 first two proposals are to terminate the leases for the
25 Uranium Leasing Program. There is a big difference,

1 though. The first one involves, if we were to
2 terminate the program, do reclamation, and hold the
3 leases.

4 The second one has more to do -- there's
5 actually a big difference. The second one is that we
6 would inactivate the program, clean up the leases, and
7 then they would be transferred over -- they would be
8 transferred to BLM. Which point discussed what would
9 happen (inaudible), but frankly, this is really
10 fabulous production area, so I'm thinking it might be.

11 The third one is to go back to the program we
12 had prior to the 2007 Programmatic Environmental
13 Assessment, which was just to have the 13 leases on
14 which there are eight mines that could produce, which
15 would mean the other 18 leases, the 16 left would be --
16 would have to be terminated. And actually, we would
17 have to give the money back we already paid.

18 And then the fourth one would be to continue
19 the expanded leasing program, which is the program we
20 decided we had to follow when we did the programmatic
21 PEA, but the only difference is that we would look at
22 potentially extending the period of time of the leases
23 because, frankly, this is all -- you know, everything
24 is expensive. It's all expensive, so we just look to
25 the future and do all the environmental impacts and

1 make a decision if that happened to (inaudible), and
2 you wanted the lease period, then everyone, you know,
3 would just proceed and we would have to stop the leases
4 or restart the leases.

5 What we're calling the no-action alternative,
6 it's sort of something that a lot of people don't quite
7 understand. It doesn't mean that there is no action.
8 No action means you don't change anything that is going
9 on now.

10 So what that would be is continue the program
11 exactly as it is currently, same ten-year period. The
12 only thing that would be involved there is we need to
13 look at something to slide the period for however long
14 it takes to do this Environmental Impact Statement,
15 because the royalties are paid, and the companies are
16 not able to do (inaudible).

17 So these are the five that we thought of. We
18 just thought of them. We thought people might want to
19 look at one of those or the other, but what we're
20 looking at here is we really need comments from the
21 public. So we're hoping -- obviously, everybody has
22 opinions. We're happy to hear all that too, but what
23 we really, really want out of this meeting, if we can,
24 is any other ideas you might have that we need to look
25 at, other things that should be done. So that's kind

1 of what we're hoping for.

2 So the public scoping comments, if you wanted
3 to write something, there's something you want to hand
4 us, the due date is September 9th. You can -- I'll
5 tell you in a couple minutes how to get that
6 information to us, but you can get that information to
7 us and we'll obviously consider it.

8 Then between September 9th and however long
9 it takes us, we'll be looking at the alternatives and
10 preparing a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact
11 Statement. And the way it works, just so you know, is
12 we do the draft Programmatic EIS. All of you can have
13 a copy of it. You will end up having a draft of the
14 document, which is usually about yea big. On top of
15 that, you will get sort of a large table that will
16 have, basically -- not necessarily, you know, this
17 comment was made and this comment 75 times, but it will
18 say this comment was made by 75 people, this many said
19 within the scope, outside the scope, and this is what
20 we did with it. So you'll get all that information.

21 And then you'll have an opportunity to
22 comment. We will come back, I'm sure, to all the same
23 locations, potentially also Grand Junction, that makes
24 sense too. But anyway, we'll come back to all the
25 locations. You have a period of time after that,

1 probably 60 days, to get any other comments you wanted
2 to get to us.

3 Then the final PEIS will be issued, and we'll
4 issue a record of decision, so that's a final decision.
5 And I really -- I wish I could give you a time, but we
6 don't have -- it depends on, basically, what ideas
7 people have to look at.

8 So if you want to speak tonight, I'm hoping
9 you've signed up. If you have anything you want to
10 give us, we'll be happy to have it. You can give it to
11 our court reporter, Lisa, and she'll include that
12 information. Accents are difficult, so whatever you
13 have is great. Otherwise, if you have something you
14 want to send us, you can just send it to my attention,
15 if you want to. The address is on the last page, Page
16 6, it's the ulpeis@anl.gov. ANL is Argonne National
17 Labs, which we happen to have sort of overriding
18 (inaudible). The contract allowed us to pick up all
19 the wonderful experts who know everything that needs to
20 be done to get DOE environmental work done.

21 So anyway -- and that will come to me and to
22 them. We'll look at all those comments and see what
23 we've got. If you would like to keep track of where we
24 are on everything, the e-mail address at the bottom,
25 ulpeis.anl.gov is the address where you can check

1 everything. You can send -- you can also go to the ULP
2 address so you can get any and all information. We
3 have the notice of intent in your package. It has my
4 name, address, and my personal phone number so you can
5 get ahold of us, so please do so.

6 So we -- seriously, if somebody did not sign
7 up and you want to, please go back and sign up, all
8 right, because we like as many comments as possible. So
9 thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

10 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Okay. Folks, it's now
11 time to take your comments. This is your opportunity
12 to provide me with your oral comments on the scope of
13 the ULP PEIS.

14 The court reporter will transcribe the
15 comments for the administrative record, and our
16 reporter tonight is Lisa Reed. DOE has stated how
17 critical your input is to the development of this PEIS;
18 therefore, we've designed a process to ensure all
19 interested parties have equal opportunity to provide
20 input.

21 In order to do this, let me review a few of
22 the ground rules for this part of the agenda. Please
23 step up to this microphone. Tonight you'll be holding
24 the microphone; it's here on the table. When your name
25 is called, introduce yourself, and if you are with an

1 organization or another affiliation, would you please
2 mention that.

3 If you have a written version of your
4 statement, please provide a copy to the court reporter
5 after you have completed your remarks. Also, please
6 give the reporter any additional attachments to your
7 statement that you wish entered into the transcript.
8 Each will be labeled and submitted for inclusion in the
9 formal record.

10 I'll call two names at a time. The first,
11 that of the speaker, and the second, of the person to
12 follow. In view of the number of people we have
13 already signed up to provide oral comments, please
14 confine your public statement to three minutes. This
15 is absolutely necessary in order to allow all speakers
16 the opportunity to provide us comments. I request that
17 you honor your allotted time. I will let you know when
18 you have one minute left.

19 Once I've gone through the list of speakers,
20 if you have additional comments to make, we will invite
21 you back to the podium to finish your remarks. In this
22 case, you will be invited back to the table. Please
23 let us know at the end of your allotted time if you
24 would like to make those additional comments.

25 The hearing is scheduled to end tonight at

1 9:00 p.m., but we will stay as long as we need within
2 reason to allow all of you the opportunity to provide
3 your input. Laura Kilpatrick will be serving as the
4 hearing officer for the Department of Energy during the
5 formal comment period. She will not be responding to
6 any questions or comments during this session.

7 So with that, I'm going to start calling
8 names, and would ask that you step up to the podium.
9 And let's make sure this thing is on. Thank you.

10 All right. The first person, Dianna Reams,
11 and Dianna will be followed by Glen Williams.

12 MS. DIANNA REAMS: My name is Dianna Reams --
13 thank you, John -- I'm the president of the
14 Nucla/Naturita area Chamber of Commerce. We, as a
15 chamber, wholeheartedly support the mining and milling
16 operations and all operations that promote and support
17 mining and milling in our area. Thank you.

18 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Okay. Thank you,
19 Dianna. Glen Williams, and Glen will be followed by
20 Bobby Reader.

21 MR. GLEN WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'm Glen Williams
22 with Cotter Corporation up in Nucla. We've got nine
23 lease tracts now. And looking at the proposed
24 alternatives, it looks to me like Alternatives 1 and 2,
25 if you happen to have acquired any of those leases in

1 the latest leasing effort and you've expended monies,
2 you are going to get shorted on your efforts. And I
3 wonder how the DOE would compensate the companies who
4 spent the money on that, because it seems like they are
5 getting screwed, basically.

6 Number 3 would be the same thing for those
7 companies that picked up new leases. They are not
8 getting an opportunity to get their monies back that
9 they've spent on those leases, although they wouldn't
10 hurt Cotter too much, because if it continues as is,
11 we've already got several of those leases.

12 It seems to me that Number 5 -- I don't see
13 the difference, quite frankly, between 4 and 5 that
14 much, but either one of them looks like they would be
15 workable.

16 One of the questions I have, I guess, is I
17 know when we submit mining plans, amendments, et
18 cetera, to the state, we have to do T&E studies,
19 archaeological studies, yada, yada, all that good
20 stuff. I don't know how detailed your programmatic EIS
21 is, whether the T&E stuff that we have to do could be
22 used for the programmatic stuff. I wouldn't think it
23 would suffice --

24 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: You have one minute.

25 MR. GLEN WILLIAMS: -- but I wonder if your

1 programmatic EIS could be used for alleviating some of
2 the stuff we have to do, if we could use some of that
3 info.

4 But yeah, to me, it just looks like 4 or 5
5 would be a much more reasonable approach. Thanks.

6 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Glen. Bobby
7 Reader, and Bobby will be followed by Richard Craig.

8 MR. BOBBY READER: Yeah, my name is Bobby
9 Reader, and I'm just here as a member of the public.
10 And when you make your decisions, because it's been the
11 way it is, I hope that you base your determination on
12 facts instead of emotion. Look at where you're having
13 your meetings. There is a lot of emotion involved, and
14 this is not the way that it should be. It should be
15 based on the facts. And I think the people in this
16 room and in this area are part of the facts, so . . .

17 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Bobby.
18 Richard, and Richard will be followed by Alan Chiles.

19 MR. RICHARD CRAIG: Richard Craig. I kind of
20 looked over that thing, and that Number 4 looks kind of
21 sensible for us.

22 And I guess what kind of bothers me is that
23 you read in the paper that you guys were -- DOE was
24 forced into this study by the environmentalists. Well,
25 they got more money than we do, so this group out here,

1 we're going to force you into making a good, honest
2 study so we can get on with our business, get our mill
3 going, and put people to work. That's our big goal. We
4 need it. This country needs it. We need to go to
5 work. Thank you.

6 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Richard.
7 Alan Chiles. Alan will be followed by Wesley Chiles.

8 MR. ALAN CHILES: I'm Alan Chiles, president
9 --

10 (Reporter requested speaker to speak
11 up.)

12 MR. ALAN CHILES: Alan Chiles, president of
13 Rimrock Exploration and Development, mining company.

14 We're a small independent mining company. We
15 recognize the need for the DOE lease tracts to be out
16 there. Without them, I don't think the uranium
17 industry here can be viable. It will fall short in
18 many areas.

19 We also have to -- I agree with Glen. We
20 need these studies to go beyond just the lease tracts
21 and open the door so all the independent mining
22 companies can come in and use some of it to gain
23 advantage to where we can ease the process. Nobody
24 minds going to work too much if they can go to it. Our
25 problem is we cannot go to work. We're stuck asking

1 permission repeatedly, over and over and over, from one
2 government agency to the next, "Can we go to work," and
3 we just keep getting stalled. This here is the exact
4 same thing going on tonight, asking permission to go to
5 work. Thank you.

6 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Alan.
7 Wesley Chiles, Wesley will be followed by Don Coram.

8 MR. WESLEY CHILES: I'm Wesley Chiles,
9 Rimrock Mountain Exploration and Development.

10 Like my brother said, we're a small mining
11 company. And sometimes we just feel like we're beating
12 our head up against the wall. I wish they could expand
13 the DOE's tracts to cover all the Western Slope and
14 help us out, listed on just the environmental impact
15 statements. We've been trying to get our mine
16 permitted for over a year now, and it's a continuing
17 process.

18 We have one government agency after another
19 needing this study, needing that study. What they
20 don't realize when they say "study" is that it's
21 dollars out of our pockets, and that's hard.

22 And, you know, all we really want to do is
23 just go to work. We're not trying to destroy the
24 world. You know, there's been mining in this country,
25 in this area, for over a hundred years. That should be

1 a good enough study. Nothing -- the world still spins.
2 Everything is still going great. Telluride is still
3 skiing. You know, there is no problems.

4 We just need to -- let us go to work. Get
5 the Division of Wildlife off our backs. You know, they
6 don't want us to work from December 1st to April
7 because of deer habitat and elk migration. You're
8 lucky if you see any out there because they are all in
9 town already with the people, so, you know, there is
10 none out there. Anyway, thank you very much.

11 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Wesley. Don
12 Coram. And Don will be followed by Tim Pierce.

13 MR. DON CORAM: Thank you. I'm Don Coram. I
14 reside at 67850 Ogden Road in Montrose.

15 And I thought it was very appropriate that
16 you started out with the lights off, because that's
17 what you are looking at if we shut nuclear power down.
18 Twenty-five percent of the United States is nuclear
19 power, 25 percent of the world, approximately.

20 I'm basically here to review some of the
21 testimony that I heard in Montrose a couple of days
22 ago. There are 440 active nuclear reactors in the
23 world right now, 109 of them are in the United States,
24 so nuclear power here is huge. We cannot survive
25 without it. Nuclear and coal, they carry the weight.

1 There are 16 reactors under construction
2 right now worldwide. Projections are for -- 2015
3 production requirements will be twice of what they were
4 in 1980. Domestic production is up 17 percent in this
5 two quarters over last year, but that is a far cry from
6 what we need.

7 We need to develop this resource. We need
8 the jobs. Southwest Colorado basically leads the state
9 in the highest unemployment. Every time I come over
10 here, I'm amazed that you have survived. It's through
11 hard work and perseverance that you have done that. And
12 I think all you are asking for is a chance to do it
13 again.

14 This area supported Montrose County for many
15 years. The tax base relied on the mining industry of
16 western Montrose County --

17 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: You have one minute.

18 MR. DON CORAM: And I will use it. Thank
19 you. -- but we need to really step back and look.

20 One of the things that we heard, if this goes
21 through, it will kill the tourist industry. The Number
22 1 tourist destination in this entire region is Moab.
23 Try to book a room in Moab. What does Moab have? A
24 huge tailings pile. Maybe we need to move more
25 tailings piles into this area so we can attract more

1 tourists.

2 You know, we just need to step back and take
3 a commonsense approach. None of us want to destroy our
4 environment. We want clean air. We want clean water,
5 and we want a future for our families. Thank you.

6 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Don. Tim --
7 Jim Pierce, and Jim (sic) will be followed by Jennifer
8 Thurston.

9 MR. TIM PIERCE: It is Tim Pierce, just like
10 she started out to say.

11 I actually have no affiliation at the moment.
12 I've done some work for Rimrock on their environmental
13 permitting. I've been in the environmental management
14 business for 30, 35 years, mainly employed by companies
15 like Cotter and whatnot.

16 I would like to echo Glen's comment and hope
17 that the DOE can drill down on some of the past studies
18 that have been performed, and use that information in
19 their EIS rather than doing a lot of repetitive work. I
20 see a lot of that going on right now, and it's, quite
21 frankly, taxpayer -- and it's very, very disturbing.

22 I would also hope that the DOE would make
23 that stuff available, as Glen commented, to the mining
24 companies and whatnot to use in their requirements from
25 meeting their EIS -- or their EAs and whatnot through

1 BLM and adjacent lands and whatnot.

2 So primarily, that's all the comments I have
3 at this moment. I may have more after the process gets
4 going. Thanks.

5 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Jim.
6 Jennifer Thurston. Jennifer will be followed by Taylor
7 McKinnon.

8 MS. JENNIFER THURSTON: My name is Jennifer
9 Thurston, and I want to express my general support for
10 Alternative Numbers 1 and 2 in terms of emphasizing
11 reclamation before new development for uranium. And
12 one of the reasons I believe this is because an
13 important economic study found that almost as many jobs
14 would be generated, and we really get two great
15 benefits, which is improving some of the conditions out
16 in the leasing tracts and also creating jobs for this
17 region, which is very important to the entire region.

18 I would like to see local preferences, more
19 local employees and more local companies. And I do
20 think that small mining companies deserve a fair chance
21 at competing with the large ones, and I think those are
22 some of the interesting comments that I hope the DOE
23 will consider. Thank you very much.

24 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Jennifer.
25 Taylor McKinnon.

1 MR. TAYLOR MCKINNON: I'll pass. Thank you.

2 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Pass, okay. The next
3 one is Craig Pirazzi. And Craig will be followed by
4 Tony Lobato.

5 MR. CRAIG PIRAZZI: Like everyone else, I
6 would like to thank the DOE for doing this public
7 process. I think giving people a chance to talk and
8 voice their opinions is probably the most important
9 thing in this process, because it helps to eliminate
10 the lines of us and them when you get -- when you
11 actually sit and listen to people's opinions, you start
12 realizing that we aren't all 100 percent for or against
13 anything.

14 And to a lot of us, and I would say probably
15 most of us, that our neighbors mean more than anything
16 to us. We interpret that in a lot of different ways.
17 Our neighbors need jobs. Our neighbors need health.
18 Our neighbors need healthy economies. And I think this
19 process, along with all the other processes with the
20 commissioners and the CDPHE, are all part of what
21 makes, this time around, for uranium mining or any
22 resource extraction different than the last time
23 around.

24 I think everyone agrees that there were a lot
25 of mistakes made, or at least with the benefit of

1 hindsight, what appears to have been mistakes, and I
2 think the uranium industry would have loved to have not
3 made those mistakes. We would love to have the people
4 whose health was affected back. We would love to have
5 a more stable economy. We would love to have Nucla and
6 Naturita not have gone through 25 or 30 years of
7 depression.

8 Those are all mistakes that were made in the
9 past. And the difference between making those mistakes
10 again and having things different this time around is
11 processes like this where the public makes comments,
12 the agencies that are governing these industries make
13 changes based on what we've learned, and I think that's
14 really an important process.

15 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: You have one minute.

16 MR. CRAIG PIRAZZI: So I would like to see a
17 stable economy here. It affects everyone. It affects
18 me, even though I work up in Telluride. It affects me
19 when my neighbors aren't able to stay here, and all the
20 effects that come along with a depressed economy, all
21 the negative effects.

22 So I think we can all learn and do it better
23 this time. Just keep in mind that as painful as this
24 process might be, and the government agencies that seem
25 to be keeping you from doing your job and getting out

1 there and making those profits that you were able to do
2 in the past, are also keeping you from making those
3 mistakes that everybody would like to see -- would like
4 to see not happen this next time around.

5 So thank you for everybody that's involved in
6 this process, especially the public. So thank you.

7 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Craig. Tony
8 Lobato, Lobarto. No Tony? Oh, okay, Tony, and Jerry
9 Davidian will be following Tony.

10 MR. TONY LOBATO: My name is Tony Lobato. I
11 have about a thousand acres of mining claims in the
12 state of Utah. One reason, Colorado is too damn hard
13 to work with.

14 But I'm also on the town board for the city
15 of Nucla, and we're 100 percent behind the mill and the
16 mining of these DOE leases.

17 Looking at the alternatives, 4 and 5 are
18 really good alternatives. I'm not sure how the Office
19 of Legacy Management could even consider 1 and 2 since
20 Congress enacted the Strategic Minerals Act back in the
21 '40s. It looks to me like you would have to get
22 Congressional approval to even consider something like
23 that. I may be wrong.

24 One thing that was created by uranium mining
25 in the past, everybody talks about the negativity.

1 There is so much more positive stuff that happened.

2 I don't know how many people know, but in the
3 late '50s, early '60s, there were more Ph.D.'s in Grand
4 Junction, Colorado, because of the Department of Energy
5 than there is at Los Alamos today. I doubt that that
6 can still be said because the DOE uses contractors now,
7 and I don't think their standards are quite that high.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Tony. Jerry
10 Davidian.

11 MR. JERRY DAVIDIAN: Hi. I'm Jerry Davidian,
12 relative newcomer to the area.

13 I spent the last 20 years living near Aiken,
14 South Carolina, which is where DOE has a major
15 production plant facility or they did. Most of the
16 jobs there for the last two decades have been in
17 cleaning it up. They are no longer producing weapons-
18 grades material, which is what this whole project
19 started for.

20 I personally find \$65 million over a 63-year
21 period to be kind of a drop in the bucket with the
22 federal government, and I think that the DOE ought to
23 look at itself as a fiduciary and put this whole thing
24 on hold until they get a fair value for the materials.
25 And if the market isn't there now, then this country

1 has got centuries to live and we can extract the
2 materials later.

3 I am totally sensitive, though, to the need
4 for jobs. As I drove through here today, I realize
5 that it's an absolutely perfect place to do regional
6 renewable energy development. I mean, solar panels
7 have a huge potential to provide an offset for this
8 country's energy needs. The nuclear plants that exist
9 will continue. New ones may or may not be built, but
10 based upon what's happened, it doesn't seem likely.

11 So I think that the laws are currently in
12 place. And if DOE would get behind the process, there
13 can be immediate and long-term lasting employment
14 creating renewable energy in the form of solar power
15 here and wind power on the east side of the Rockies.
16 And I think that that's what DOE needs to concentrate
17 its effort.

18 MS. DEBORAH SULLIVAN: Thank you, Jerry.

19 Was there anyone else that wanted to make a
20 comment for the record? If not, that concludes this
21 session of the hearing on the scope of the Programmatic
22 EIS for the Uranium Leasing Program.

23 Also, please note that you may continue to
24 submit your comments on the scope of the PEIS until the
25 scoping period ends, which is September 9, 2011. Check

1 your handouts for specific information regarding how
2 and where to submit your comments. We'll recess now
3 and remain available should you want to submit comments
4 to the court reporter, Lisa.

5 If not, thank you. Have a safe journey and
6 good night.

7 (Recess taken in proceedings from 7:41
8 p.m. to 8:13 p.m..)

9 (The following statement was taken
10 after the conclusion of the public
11 comments.)

12 MS. SHERRY CRAIG: Sherry, S-h-e-r-r-y,
13 Craig, C-r-a-i-g, and I live in Nucla. I think that
14 most businesses are plagued by burdensome government
15 requirements, you know, regulations, so on and so
16 forth, that are causing a lot of businesses to go into
17 the other countries, and that's hurting our country,
18 actually killing us. And they are not as careful with
19 their environment as we are, so it doesn't make any
20 sense to chase -- to have them all leave the country to
21 protect the environment here, because the world is
22 getting more polluted by having them across the seas
23 than it is if they are here.

24 For these proposals, I think that Number 4 is
25 better, because it allows for expanded mining, not just

1 the leases, but for more to be done, and also to have
2 them be able to be renewed or last longer with the
3 reviews and things that would have to go on over time.

4 If they did do the 1 or the 2, I was
5 concerned with how they were going to compensate the
6 people that had the leases other than just paying them
7 back their lease money. How are they going to
8 compensate them for all the work and time they've put
9 into the leases trying to get them ready to mine? It
10 seems kind of unfair just to jerk the lease out from
11 under them.

12 The repetition of the different government
13 agencies, they have to do an environmental study for
14 this one and this one, and they can't just use the same
15 study for all of them. They all have to have their
16 separate things, which costs tons of money for nothing.

17 And the DOE, the one gentleman said the DOE
18 does that kind of studies and environmental and all
19 those impact studies, and yet if the DOE could release
20 those to the miners, then they could just use that same
21 study and save a lot of money. Why keep doing
22 something over and over for different levels of
23 government? It just doesn't make any sense. That's
24 it.

25 (The proceedings concluded at 8:15
 p.m., August 10, 2011.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF COLORADO))ss.
COUNTY OF)

I, Lisa Persichitte Reed, do hereby certify that I am a Certified Realtime Reporter and Notary Public within the State of Colorado. I further certify that these proceedings were taken in shorthand by me at the time and place herein set forth, that it was thereafter reduced to typewritten form, and that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not related to, employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or attorneys herein, nor otherwise interested in the result of the within action. In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature and seal this 22nd day of August, 2011.

Lisa Persichitte Reed
Certified Realtime Reporter

My commission expires April 12, 2012.

<p><u> </u> \$ \$488,900 7:23 \$500,000 7:19,21 \$65 8:14 28:20</p> <p><u> </u> 1 1 16:24 22:22 24:10 27:19 31:4 10 1:1,9 9:17 31:25 100 25:12 27:15 109 21:23 12 32:22 13 5:16 8:24 10:13 16 2:4 10:15 22:1 17 22:4 18 2:5 5:17 10:15 19 2:6 1980 22:4 1st 21:6</p> <p><u> </u> 2 2 16:24 24:10 27:19 31:4 20 2:6 28:13 2007 5:13 10:12 2008 7:9 2011 1:1,9 29:25 31:25 32:17 2012 32:22 2015 22:2 21 2:7 22nd 32:16 23 2:7 24 2:8 25 2:8 21:19 26:6 25,000 7:5,7,20 8:20 9:14</p>	<p>27 2:9 28 2:9 29 8:20 2nd 1:10</p> <p><u> </u> 3 3 2:3 9:14 17:6 30 2:10 23:14 26:6 31 5:21 6:6 7:22 8:19 9:12 32 2:10 35 23:14</p> <p><u> </u> 4 4 2:3 9:4 17:13 18:4,20 27:17 30:24 40s 6:25 27:21 41.7 8:13 411 1:10 440 21:22 48 8:12</p> <p><u> </u> 5 5 17:12,13 18:4 27:17 50s 6:14 28:3</p> <p><u> </u> 6 6 13:16 60 13:1 60s 28:3 63-year 28:20 67850 21:14</p> <p><u> </u> 7 7 8:21 9:4 7:00 1:9 7:15 4:3</p>	<p>7:41 30:7 700,000 7:1 75 12:17,18 7A 8:21</p> <p><u> </u> 8 8.1 8:12 8:13 30:8 8:15 31:24 830,000 9:9,17</p> <p><u> </u> 9 9 29:25 9:00 16:1 9th 5:7 12:4,8</p> <p><u> </u> A abeyance 7:14 ability 32:12 able 11:16 26:19 27:1 31:2 above-entitled 1:8 absolutely 15:15 29:5 Accents 13:12 acquired 16:25 acreage 9:13,15,16 acres 7:1,5,6,7,20,21 8:20 9:10,17 27:11 across 30:22 Act 3:12 27:20 action 3:22 11:7,8 32:15 actions 4:22,23,24 6:9 active 21:22 actually 8:6,16</p>	<p>10:5,16 23:11 25:11 30:18 addition 5:16 additional 5:17 6:4 8:22 15:6,20,24 address 13:15,24,25 14:2,4 adjacent 24:1 administration 8:5 administrative 4:14 7:17 14:15 advantage 19:23 AEC 7:3 affected 26:4 affects 26:17,18 affiliation 15:1 23:11 affixed 32:16 against 20:12 25:12 agencies 26:12,24 31:13 agency 20:2,18 agenda 4:4 14:22 ago 21:22 ahold 14:5 Aiken 28:13 air 23:4 Alamos 28:5 Alan 2:6 18:18 19:7,8,12 20:6 alleviating 18:1 allotted 15:17,23 allow 8:1 15:15 16:2 allowed 13:18</p>
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