
MEDICINE BOW FUEL and POWER
COAL-TO-LIQUIDS PROJECT

PUBLIC HEARING

December 16, 2009

MEDICINE BOW COMMUNITY HALL

319 Pine Street

MEDICINE BOW, WYOMING 82329

Commencing at 7:01 p.m.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. ALEXANDER: Hello, everyone. Thank you all for coming tonight. We're going to get started. Can you hear okay? No. How's that? All right.

My name is Lynn Alexander. I'm with the U.S. Department of Energy, and I am the NEPA document manager for the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Environmental Impact Statement. And we're here tonight -- first off, I just wanted to thank the Town of Medicine Bow for hosting us. This is a beautiful hall that you've got here, and we really appreciate you making it available for us to use.

We're here tonight for the public scoping meeting for the Environmental Imact Statement related to this Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project. And I'm going to -- tonight I am going to talk about what the Loan Guarantee Program is; what the NEPA process is, what NEPA is, what the NEPA process is. And then I will turn it over to the Applicant to discuss the technical details of the project, so that you all will know what's going on with this Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project. okay?

One thing to note is that our comment period tonight, later on, is for us, at Department of Energy, to receive your comments and hear your thoughts on this project and on the scope of the Environmental Imact

Statement specifically. And we've already had our question-and-answer period, so if we could try and keep it to just comments towards the Environmental Imact Statement, and it's not going to be a discussion session at this point.

But we will be around after the comment session is over, if you have any further questions. Or you can contact me with the information that's on the handout around the -- around the room. Okay?

MR. PEGUES: That's not one you want?

MS. ALEXANDER: Sorry, the next.

MR. PEGUES: Okay.

MS. ALEXANDER: All right. First off, what is the Loan Guarantee Program? The Loan Guarantee Program was established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by the U.S. Congress, and its principal purpose is to encourage the early commercial use of new and innovative technologies in energy projects.

In order to receive a loan guarantee from the Department of Energy, applicants and projects must meet certain financial and technical criteria. The financial criteria help us to meet our statutory requirement that we have a reasonable chance of being repaid. And there's other criteria: That the -- that the technology has to be viable, that it has to be ready for commercial

implementation, and that it meet certain other criteria such as emissions limits and carbon dioxide emissions limits for air pollutants.

There are also some other authorities within the Energy Policy Act, that have to do with renewables. but for this specific project, we're looking at Section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of '05, and that was written to provide technologies that use innovative -- or projects that use innovative technologies, including nuclear and advanced fossil fuels.

Some key dates in the Loan Guarantee Program history: First, the Act was finalized by Congress in August of 2005. In summer of 2008, Congress provided $8 billion in Loan Guarantee Authority for coal-based power generation, gasification, and carbon sequestration. The Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project falls under this $8 billion Loan Guarantee Authority.

In October 2008, DOE issued a solicitation, inviting applicants who met the criteria listed in the solicitation, and specifically in the law, to apply to the Department of Energy for a loan guarantee. The October 2008 solicitation was for fossil-based innovative technology facilities such as Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project. Medicine Bow filed under that

solicitation. It was a two-part application process, so the final application was received in March of 2009.

So what is NEPA, a lot of you might be wondering. NEPA's the National Environmental Policy Act. It was enacted in 1969 and signed by President Nixon in 1970. It's -- the main purposes of NEPA are to help the government make better decisions and to involve the public in those decision-making processes. So NEPA requires the federal government to analyze potential environmental impacts of all of their major proposed actions.

The Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project is considered a major federal action, and therefore it is -- us issuing a loan guarantee to Medicine Bow Fuel and Power is considered a major federal action, and therefore we're doing the NEPA process on this project. DOE determines what level of NEPA review, based on whether the project has a possibility of having significant environmental impacts.

The Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project consists of a coal-to-liquids plant, the surface-based coal facilities, and several corridors that are connected actions for the pipelines that will carry product and other materials to and from the plant. Therefore, DOE determined that these actions, this

project, could -- has the potential to cause significant impact to the environment, the human environment, and therefore will do an environmental impact statement.

There are three levels of review, under NEPA. The environmental impact statement is the most important -- or is the largest and takes the longest. It involves a full review of any potential impacts. It involves consultation with other agencies of the federal government, state and local agencies, and the community. It also involves formal public involvement steps, and we'll go over what those are in just a moment, and tonight is an example of those formal public comment steps.

The second level of NEPA review is an environmental assessment. That's a slightly smaller version. If the federal government isn't sure if a project will have significant environmental impact, then they will do an environmental assessment to determine if they -- if the project will be significant.

If it's not significant, they -- after completing the environmental assessment, if they find it's not significant, they issue a finding of no significant impact. If they determine that it is, it would cause significant impact, then they issue a -- then they have to go ahead and do a full environmental

impact statement. Therefore, if the government knows this is something that could cause significance, they start with the environmental impact statement, in order to just shorten the process.

The third level of NEPA review is a categorical exclusion. There is some categories of projects and actions that the government has determined, based on prior analysis, that they will not have a significant impact. Every single time they do it, it results in a finding of no significant impact. And through rule making, through issuing a rule in the Federal Register and becoming part of the Code of Federal Regulations, these categorical exclusions are used then for future projects that meet the definition of that categorical exclusion.

So if a project meets the definition of a categorical exclusion, and there's no extraordinary circumstances such as extreme public controversy, then they will issue a categorical exclusion and do not have to do any further review.

Medicine Bow did not meet any categorical exclusions, could cause environmental impact; therefore, we're doing the EIS.

If anyone's interested in the specifics of the regulatory citations and the statutory citations, the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 is the Act. The 40 CFR Regulations there are the governmentwide regulations that everyone has to follow when it comes to NEPA. And 10 CFR Part 21 are the Department of Energy specific NEPA regulations. 1021 also includes the categorical exclusions that DOE has set for other categories of projects. And then DOE's Order 451.1B lists responsibilities for completing NEPA within the Department of Energy specifically.

Okay. So the NEPA process can be long and involved. Environmental impact statements, the average, I believe, right now, is about two years for them to be completed. They can go as long as 3, 5, some -- such as the one that was done for the Yucca Mountain Project in Nevada -- can take 10 or 20 years.

We, however, have committed to working with Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project and other agencies to complete this project as expeditiously as possible, and we are hoping that we can get this done in 12 to 15 months from the publication of the Notice of Intent.

Listed on the slide behind me is the EIS -- the EIS process. It starts with the publication of the Notice of Intent. That's published in the Federal Register and was published for Medicine Bow Fuel and Power on November 27th of this year. The Notice of

Intent says that we are planning on doing an EIS, and lists the initial scope, and invites public comment on that scope. So right now we're in the public scoping comment -- public comment period, the public scoping period, for this EIS.

The scoping period lasts 30 days.

The purpose of the scoping period is for DOE to hear from you all; to hear from the public, to hear from the communities, to hear from the states and other federal agencies, and from the tribes; on issues that they think that we should be analyzing in the Environmental Imact Statement. So this is the chance for everyone to tell us, "You know what? You need to worry about this species over here. It's not listed yet. It's not an endangered species. It's not a threatened species. But it could be, and so we need you to make sure that you analyze that fully in the Environmental Imact Statement."

It's also your chance to tell us, "We know about all these other projects that are going to happen in the area, that will impact the same environmental resources as the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project," because one of the things that we do is analyze cumulative impacts: What would this project impact, the environment, on top of any current or reasonably

foreseeable projects that would impact the same areas, okay?

So we're in the 30-day public scoping period right now. That ends on December 28th.

After we've received all comments and incorporated them into our scope, we begin drafting the Environmental Imact Statement. And that is what can take the longest period of time. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will cover all of the areas that we've discussed and heard from you in the scoping comment period.

Once the impact -- the Draft Impact Statement is complete, we will issue -- actually, EPA will issue a Notice of Availability. Again, the Federal Register will also announce it on our Loan Guarantee Program website and in local newspapers, so that you all know that it's there.

If you signed up, in the back, to receive a copy of it or to be informed of it, we will let you know by e-mail or mail and send you a copy of it, if you wish to comment on it. So if you haven't done so, please let us know if you would like a copy of that, so . . .

It'll be a large document, just to let you know. We'll be posting the draft up on our website also, so it will be available electronically.

Once the draft is announced, there's a 45-day public comment period. And that comment period is for comments on the contents of the Draft Environmental Statement. So that's when folks such as EPA, state agencies, local agencies, and the public can read through the EIS. And if they don't believe that something has been covered enough or something's been left out, then you can comment on that to us again, let us know, and we will consider those comments in our Final Impact Statement.

The 45-day comment period on the draft also includes another formal public hearing, just like this one, a little bit more formal. And that'll be another opportunity for you to provide oral comments. And, of course, you can also provide written comments now and in the future, when the draft comes out.

Again, I mentioned, we consider all of those comments received on the draft, in the final. They will be specifically addressed, so we will note exactly what our response is to every comment. So if you have a comment, we'll respond to it.

The Final EIS is written and published. Once we publish the final, again -- upon publication of the final, there will be another announcement and a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, again on our

website, again in the newspapers, and to anyone on the mailing distribution list. And that final, once that is out, there's a 30-day, mandatory 30-day, waiting period.

After the 30 days, Department of Energy will issue a Record of Decision. And that Record of Decision announces what DOE's decision is, whether we will be granting a loan guarantee to Medicine Bow Fuel and Power, or whether we will not be granting a guarantee, a loan guarantee, to Medicine Bow Fuel and Power. And it will also explain why we came to that decision.

And it will list any mitigation measures that have been determined necessary. So if DOE determines that they need to have a certain distance from any creeks, you know, that will be listed in there. Other things that have to do with protecting resources will be listed in the Record of Decision, mitigation measures to protect resources.

And that's the end of the NEPA process, the Record of Decision.

This is just a visual representation of the NEPA process. And it shows specifically where there are opportunities for the public to provide comment on this Environmental Imact Statement. We're in the public scoping period, here at the beginning. And again, go to the public hearings during the Draft EIS comment period

and then during the waiting period.

So how is the NEPA process going to impact the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project? First off, the proposed action, just to make sure that we all understand, the proposed action is for Department of Energy to issue a loan guarantee to the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project. It's not to build the project. It's to issue the loan guarantee.

We've started the EIS process. As I mentioned, we're in the scoping period now. As soon as the scoping period ends, on December 28th, we will start working on the Draft EIS. Our plan right now is to have that Draft EIS ready for -- ready for publication sometime in early summer of 2010, and then with the Final Environmental Imact Statement likely around December or -- December of 2010 or January of 2011, and a Record of Decision issued in early 2011.

One thing to note is, people often ask, what's the best way that we can help this go faster? Because it is a long process, and we recognize that. And the best way to help us to make this whole NEPA process go faster is to come up and give your oral comments tonight or send in something in writing later. We have comment cards on the side table over here, and I believe there's some in the back table. If you don't feel comfortable

speaking in public, you can send us comments in writing or by e-mail. I'll have my mailing and e-mail addresses up there in just a moment.

And anything that you have on the Impact Statement, on the scope of the Impact Statement; any other projects that you know of in the area that might be built, that would impact the same environmental resources as the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project; any other controversies that you know of in the area, that you believe that we should be analyzing in the Impact Statement; and any resource areas, other than the general one's, that you think that we should be looking at, that aren't currently listed.

And these are the resource areas that we're looking at right now. We will definitely be covering air emissions and greenhouse gases. That will be a major portion of the impact statement. We'll be going over water resources, wetlands, and flood plains assessment.

The project's footprint is on approximately 845 acres, and we'll be looking at all of those, including as well as the lands that the pipeline corridors might cover; ecological resources such as wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and vegetation. Solid waste management, there will be some

glassy slag that will be a waste product of this -- of the facility. And we'll be looking at how that will be disposed of and what impacts it might have.

Cultural and socioeconomic resources, we look at the impacts of the project on local economies, jobs, schools, emergency services, all sorts of things in the area, that this might impact. Traffic, we look at traffic.

There's also historic structures and areas of significance to tribes and to the area. We know already that there's at least one structure in the project area that could potentially be listed on the National List of Historic Places. And, you know, that's something that would have to be mitigated. And we will address that in the Impact Statement. So if you know of any other things that you think that we need to be looking at when it comes to historic or archeological resources, that's another thing that it would be great to hear from you about.

Cumulative impacts, again, I mentioned that before. Any other projects that you know might impact the same resource areas as the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project.

So how can you provide comments? As I mentioned, there's the comment cards, for written

comments, on the side table and in the back. You can come up and speak. If you haven't already signed up with Emily in the back, you can come to her, and she'll add your name to my list. Or you can just come up to the phone at the -- the microphone, at the end of our comment period.

You can mail written comments to the address listed on the slide up above, behind me. You can e-mail comments. I like e-mails.

And again, those comments are due by December 28, 2009.

If you have any additional questions, our Loan Guarantee Program website is listed at the top of the slide. It has great information on the Loan Guarantee Program, its purpose, background; and information on the solicitations, the requirements that applicants have to meet in order to meet the criteria of getting a loan guarantee.

The Loan Guarantee website also has a link to our NEPA documents, so if you go to that website, the Loan Guarantee website on the left, there's a link for NEPA. That has information on this public meeting here and other public meetings we'll be holding, on other projects, and documents as they're published.

The DOE NEPA page is listed there in the

middle. That has information on general DOE regulations/requirements on other DOE environmental documents, NEPA documents. It's also where you can find 10 CFR Part 1021, if you're interested in looking up those categorical exclusions. And I believe there's links to the governmentwide NEPA law and regulations.

And, finally, if you have questions, you can give me a call or send me an e-mail at the address and phone number listed behind me, okay?

Thank you all very much. Now we are going to hear from our Applicant. I've asked them to spend about 10 minutes discussing the technical details of the project, so that you can hear specifically what they're planning, if they were to get this loan guarantee from the Department of Energy.

And then we'll begin hearing oral comments after that.

I'd like to introduce Bob Kelly from DKRW, who will be speaking now.

MR. KELLY: Thank you, Lynn.

Bill, can you run the slides for me? Great job there on that last set.

I'm Bob Kelly, chairman of DKRW Advanced Fuels. We're the sponsor company for the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power Project. In the audience today, I have

my colleagues: Jon Doyle, chief executive officer; Jude Rolfes is our vice president for engineering; and Bob Moss is our vice president for environmental services.

What I want to do today is talk to you about what Lynn has been calling "the project," what we're putting up in Medicine Bow. I'll talk about the project itself. I'll describe the site. I'll talk about the utility and pipeline corridors where we're running our gasoline, CO2, and other our utility services. And I'll talk about what we've already done, extensive amount of work, on environmental permitting for this project.

Let me start with the project. Medicine Bow project is a coal-to-liquids facility. We will acquire, we have an option with Arch Coal to acquire, a 180-million-ton coal reserve, including all the permits and approvals. And it'll involve the development and construction by Arch of an underground long-wall mine in the Medicine Bow area, and the construction of utility and pipeline corridors.

We'll use about 8,000 tons per day of coal, to produce about 18,500 barrels per day of regular 87 octane gasoline. The gasoline will be transported. We've already sold the gasoline forward. It'll be transported by products pipelines to the local markets here, to Denver. And carbon dioxide, which is captured

from the process and pulled out of the gas stream, will be compressed, which turns it into a liquid. And it'll be shipped, through a pipeline, to enhanced oil recovery projects in the Wyoming market here.

And DKRW Advanced -- or Medicine Bow is a wholly owned subsidiary of DKRW Advanced Fuels. That's -- that's our company.

Let me take a few minutes and walk you through how the technology works. Let me start in the upper left-hand corner up there. And basically, this involves six key processes.

We start with coal coming out of the coal mine. We're a mine mouth facility. We're located right at the mine. And we'll mix the coal with water; put it in what's called a slurry; crush it. And that'll go into that gasifier component, which is the second major process.

The gasifier component, currently our gasifier technology is GE gasification technology. And what the gasification does is turns the coal from a solid state into a gas. And the gas has, really, four principal components. It has hydrogen and carbon monoxide, which are the fuel elements that allow you to make methanol and gasoline. It has CO2. And it has some trace contaminants, mainly sulfur.

What that next step, which is called Selexol, does is cleans up the gas. It takes the CO2 out, with a process called Selexol. It removes all the sulfur, which would be contaminants in our process; puts it in the form of a yellow cake that'll be sold into the sulfur market, used for fertilizer and other industrial chemicals. And the CO2 is captured and compressed and put in a pipeline to go to the EOR market.

What's left is the pure syngas, called pure syngas. That's a combination of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, CO. And that is the fuel constituent that goes into the third process up there. We make a chemical called methanol. Methanol's a fuel. It'll be put in a tank. It's used in a wide variety of chemical and fuel operations. It'll be stored on the site and then taken out, to go to that lower right-hand process, which is a technology perfected by Exxon Mobile called MTG, methanol to gasoline.

What we do there is we take the methanol, we push it through a reactor that has what's called a zeolite catalyst in it. Methanol's kind of like a gasoline molecule and a couple of water molecules, and that catalyst just strips the water. So we produce a lot of water, that goes back into our process and leaves a residual of basically 87 octane gasoline. That

gasoline goes into the pipeline and go into a -- it'll go into a tank and then into a pipeline and get shipped to Denver, into the gasoline market there.

We have two other related processes that form part of the technology. One is we'll need power, mainly for compression. We use compression in compressing the CO2 to get it in a liquid state. And the other thing we use compression for is in an oxygen plant. To gasify the coal, you need to inject pure oxygen into the process, into the GE gasifier. And the air separation plant is the process that does that, and the way it does it is by compressing and chilling air. And that compression takes a lot of electricity.

So those are the main processes: Coal and water in; gasoline, pure CO2, and some sulfur out. And that's -- that's the -- that's the state of our project. That's the technology.

The gasoline we'll produce is going to be very clean. The gasoline we produce has characteristics on the right-hand side: Sulfur, 1 part per million; very low in benzine; and very, very low in terms of CO2. And that's CO2 emissions compared to the fuel we'll be displacing in the market. So it's got very good environmental characteristics.

This is our schedule. We started this about

five years ago, in 2005. And big industrial projects take a long time, and the reason they take a long time is because of all the things that you can see that we have to do up there:

Get the technology. All these technologies that I've talked about are owned by major corporations. You have to negotiate licenses and so on.

We've done the engineering and permitting work, and I'll talk more about the permitting later.

You have to get customers to buy the products that you've got. And we have a customer that's going to buy all of our gasoline for a 25-year period. We have a customer we're about ready to sign a contract with, who will buy all the CO2 for the length of our project.

You have to do final engineering. You have to raise the money, and this is part of that process, the financing process; and close it, which is all the equity and debt that you need to build this facility. Then you need to build it, put the coal mine into operation and start it up in a commercial mechanical operation and into final startup. We estimate we'll be mechanically complete in 2014, 2015, and that our first full year of operation would be 2015.

We think this -- it's strongly in the national interest to build this project. It has a lot of what we

think are beneficial socioeconomic considerations: producing domestic gasoline from our coal resources; job opportunities that will peak at about 2,400 construction workers; in terms of full-time jobs, 450 good jobs, both not only in the mine, but in the facility itself in terms of technicians, scientists, and management. We'll increase employment opportunities in Wyoming for enhanced oil recovery by providing CO2, which is short in supply here.

And, of course, local businesses, many of you are involved, in the area, in terms of housing and other things. We'll need to have those put up to house and to service the -- the facility. And, of course, there's going to be state and local tax revenue impacts, both property taxes, severance taxes, and other taxes that the state will collect once the project is put up.

Let me talk a little bit about the site. We're pretty close. I think, 10 miles? 10 miles down County Road 3. And this is a picture of the near-term area. The yellow area is specifically where we'll do -- put the 845 acres that Lynn was talking about. That will be where the site is. It'll be at the portal of the coal mine.

The underground mine is in the blue area over there, and there's associated -- a number of associated

pipeline corridors that run adjacent to the plant. These are corridors where there are already existing pipelines and where there have been a number of environmental studies, including, I believe, some environmental impact statements already done on those lines. So it's a well-studied area.

Arch will be putting in the mine. Arch operates a number of these mines in the West out here, and is one of the best operators of this long-wall technology.

Here's a more detailed picture of it, and a closeup. And you can see, specifically there's three areas that are indicated here. We'll have the plant area, which is in red. There's a construction lay-down area. There's going to be a lot of heavy equipment that'll be coming in, and we have to lay it down outside the plant area before we begin construction. That's sort of the orange area there. Then there's the mine surface facilities; these are the portals and some of the coal lay-down areas that will be adjacent to the plant.

Here's what the site looks like right now. This is looking towards County Road 3, which you can see in the upper right-hand corner there. And you can see, there's not much there at the moment. But let me show

you what we think it'll look like in the future, which is, this is the rendering. You can see, over on the -- on the left side of the screen, there's the portals for the underground mine; two coal lay-down areas, those are the black areas there.

There'll be some administrative buildings for the coal operation, on the left side. And then the coal moved into the CTL facility, through the gasification, through the cleanup process, through the methanol and gasoline production areas. You can see, there are some storage tanks for both methanol and gasoline there. And, of course, the exit of the product, products, will be mainly done through two pipelines.

Let me talk, for a few minutes, about the actual utility pipeline corridors. Again, the main coal area is outlined in the black area. And there's a corridor that heads towards Medicine Bow. It's called the North Utility Corridor. That includes transmission lines that'll go in for electric power, and also some fiberoptic cable lines that'll go towards Medicine Bow for running our fiberoptics operations.

The pipeline corridors, to get to the pipeline routes, we've got two options here: The west corridor, and those will be the pipelines, the gasoline pipeline and the CO2 pipeline. And then we've got an east

corridor. That's another option of moving those pipelines to that general pipeline corridor you see in the dotted line down there.

This is a overview of those corridors, which you can see in the upper left-hand corner, connecting into the gasoline pipeline corridor. And we have two options here. One, there is an existing pipeline that goes from the Medicine Bow area to the Cheyenne area, and we're looking at and evaluating our options on whether we can patch our gasoline into that pipeline and whether that's a feasible commercial operation for us.

If we build our own pipeline, it will go down that corridor, and this is the general route we'd use, which is the same route that many of the other pipelines that are going in the area have used. And we'll also have a Cheyenne corridor at the terminus of the gasoline pipeline, to interconnect into an existing line called the Rocky Mountain Express, that goes down into the Denver gasoline terminal area.

This is -- this is the existing pipeline that pretty much looks like the pipeline route I just showed. I was showing both of those, those options. There is an existing line. We may be able to patch in with them, and we're in discussions with them at the moment.

We've done a lot of work on this already, as

you all know, because I've seen many of you, for many years, in putting this together.

Previous environmental analysis of the site, there was a Environmental Imact Statement done on this site for the coal mine. It was completed by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management and Office of Surface Mining in 1999, and it analyzed the impacts of the Elk Mountain surface mine and the Saddleback Hills underground mine, which is the mine we'll develop for the coal supply for our project. It encompassed the 18,360 acres that we're looking at for our mine.

Now, the value of this is many of the cultural studies, many of the monitoring that are required under that study, have been going on for 10 years. So there's a lot of information that we may be able to incorporate, by reference, into our Environmental Imact Statement.

But these are the other permits that we've secured: Conditional Use Permit, which is the zoning approval; the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council Permit, which looks at all the local impacts, tries to address different state issues and how you're going to be impacted and how those are going to be financed; the Federal Air Permit, we have our air permit, which looks at air emissions. Spent an extensive amount of time and

effort to go through and review all those emissions. That's been reviewed by the Department of Environmental Quality in Wyoming and was approved in March of this year.

We have the Water Supply Opinion from the state waters engineer. We have a minimal impact, we believe, on the water supply. We take it from a nonpotable reservoir, on average of about 300 gallons per minute, which is about what you authorize for a 70-acre ranch. It's very, very low water consumption. And we have the Environmental Imact Statement I just talked about and the Land Quality Division of the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality Permit.

So we have a number of permits. This is an additional action that we're going through because of the involvement of the federal government and the loan guarantee process, which is important to the financing of the project.

And that concludes our -- our statement. That's what we're here to do. And we'll be around, after, to answer further questions.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you very much.

All right. Now we will begin the public comment period. And what we'd like to ask is that -- we've got a list of folks who have already signed up to

speak. If you haven't signed up and still would like to, you can speak with Emily in the back. She's wearing the black sweater, with blue underneath. And she'll add you to the list. If you forget to do that, we'll open it up at the end, for any additional comments.

I'm going to be going through the list. We did have one person who's under a time constraint, has to pick up their son, so we're going to let him go first. Other than that, you'll be going in the order that you were signed in.

What I'm going to do is announce the person whose turn it is, and also who's on deck. So I'll let you know that your name is coming up next and you're expected to come up to the mic next.

When I call your name, if you could come up to the microphone here and tell us all what your comments are. Again, the comments we're asking for are comments on the scope of the Environmental Imact Statement that we're planning on doing here. We're looking specifically, again, for information you have on issues in the area, on any additional projects that might impact the same area, and any resource areas that you would like us to analyze in the Environmental Imact Statement.

I'd like to remind everyone -- oh, when you

come up and speak, please spell your first and last names; and also, if you're associated with an organization, let us know what organization you're representing.

I'd like to remind everyone that this is not a discussion period, so right now we're just asking to -- for you to enter your oral comments into the record, so that we can consider them when we're doing our Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I'd also like to remind everyone that we are here to listen to each other; not just for me to listen to you, but for all of us to listen to each other; and to ask you to please respect everyone and let them have their say.

Because we have about 20 people signed up right now, I'm going to ask you all to limit your initial oral comments to 5 minutes, so if you could try and keep it to 5 minutes. If we have time at the end, we're not too tired and you have more to say, you're welcome to come back up again, once everybody's had a chance to give us their comments.

Okay. Thank you very much.

And our first person is going to be Mark Northam. And on deck is Terry Weickum.

MARK NORTHAM: Thank you. I'm Mark Northam.

That's M-a-r-k, N-o-r-t-h-a-m. I'm the director of the School of Energy Resources at the University of Wyoming. I'm probably going to break the rules immediately, but I won't go over my time constraint, because I'm not going to address the Environmental Imact Statement directly.

What I'm here for today is to support this project and to express the importance of the project. The mission of the School of Energy Resources is to ensure that Wyoming achieves its potential to be a leader in global energy markets.

The importance of this project is that it is a big step in the direction -- in two directions, really, in the area of -- in the coal arena: The first is to demonstrate a flexibility of the coal. We produce 450,000,000 tons of coal a year, on average. 96 percent of that goes into the pulverized coal power plant applications, which is one of the lowest value applications of coal possible. And it is -- most of that value is achieved by other people, other than Wyoming coal producers. What this project will do is demonstrate that we can add value to coal in the state of Wyoming, in an economical and environmentally responsible way.

The second thing is that this project represents entree of Wyoming coal -- and, in fact, any

coal -- into the transportation fuels market, which is a market which is largely dominated by imported energy resources. So it's a huge step in the direction of natural -- national energy security.

A third -- I'm not going to talk about jobs and environmental contributions to this area, because I'm sure there's plenty of people who will talk about that. But a third, somewhat less tangible, benefit is, having a -- a plant like this in close proximity to the university provides opportunities for the students that we are educating to see a true industrial process, in fact a very cutting-edge state-of-the-art industrial process, taking place in their backyard.

And as one of the custodians of developing energy education programs for the state, this is going to be a huge asset for us. To have the GE High Plains Advanced Gasification Technology Center 50 miles to the east and this project about 60 miles to the northwest, is going to give our students an opportunity that's almost unparalleled, especially in this region of the country.

And the final thing that I will say is that I have personal experience with several of the aspects of this technology, specifically the methanol-to-gasoline technology -- I worked with that early in my career with

Mobil Oil -- and with the enhanced oil recovery process; both of which provide value, added value, to energy resources and extreme leverage in working towards our national security.

The methanol-to-gasoline, as I said, will allow coal to enter the transportation market in a sector that is currently not represented. And enhanced oil recovery will continue to -- will allow Wyoming to continue to produce petroleum from fields that were discovered, in some cases, almost a century ago and, before this technology, considered on its last legs. We're the only state in the country, to my knowledge, that has a continually growing reserve base based on the application of the technology, rather than a very aggressive exploration drilling program.

So as you consider the siting of this plant, I hope you will not only do an extremely thorough job of looking at the environmental impact, but think about it in terms of the value that this will add to the state.

Thank you very much.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Our next person up is Terry Weickum. And Cindy Wallace is on deck.

Oh, and I forgot to mention this before. If you have written versions of your comments, if you plan

on reading from written comments tonight, if you could drop those up with us, we'd really appreciate it. You can just leave it up here on the table, and I will make sure that it gets to our court reporter.

Okay. Thank you very much.

TERRY WEICKUM: Thank you. My name is Terry Weickum; T-e-r-r-y, W-e-i-c-k-u-m. And I'm the current chairman of the Carbon County Commissioners.

And I'm here to speak positively about this project, in support of it, of this project, because it is so important to this part of Wyoming. I think this project will demonstrate a clean use of coal, something that will prove to be very important to not only Carbon County, but the state of Wyoming and, therefore, the United States. We're so dependent on foreign oil, and we have a chance to do something about that.

This project is located in a place where it's not going to be very visible, so it's not going to have a lot of those kind of impacts. But we do recognize the fact that there will be some negative impacts from this project. We also believe that they'll be very minimal compared to the positive effects that it'll have for the local community.

The project's located in a place where there isn't a very dense population surrounding it. But it's

fortunate enough to be located very close to other communities that, in the past, have had a very similar size workforce. These are coal miners that, of course, are now out of work, and they're not here any longer. But the reason I bring that up is, the infrastructure in many of these towns is still in place. So the ability to handle the negative impacts, which is this huge workforce that would be expected, I believe Carbon County's ready to handle that.

There is a cumulative effect, and there's no question about it. Some of these things are very unpredictable because a lot of these other projects are not -- the exact date that they start, much like this project, are not -- are not known at this time. And so, you know, we all are very well aware that we'll have to deal with them as -- as they come.

The other thing of it is, is a lot of the competing projects or the other projects that will be going on simultaneously will be kind of an in-and-out thing. Crews come in, they put in a pipeline, and they leave. This project's going to be longer term. There's going to be more stability to it. I think it'll be a nice bit for Carbon County.

I believe this project is the right kind of project, in the right place, at the right time.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Okay, Cindy Wallace. And on deck is Martha Martinez del Rio.

CINDY WALLACE: Hi, I'm Cindy Wallace; C-i-n-d-y, W-a-l-l-a-c-e. I'm the director of the Carbon County Economic Development Corporation. And tonight I also am speaking on behalf of our board of directors.

And I have several of my board members here. I would like them just to stand real fast. And I'm their spokesperson right now, but I have several board members here currently, that's on the board for Carbon County.

And this is going to be a very exciting project, not only for Carbon County, but for the whole state of Wyoming. Not only will it bring in much-needed jobs, with the economy; it's also going to bring opportunities and, hopefully, keep our young people here, bring families back who have moved away because they can't find jobs.

And it's -- it will also -- I feel, the company, they're working on trying to go through all the various regulations and make sure this is a clean and environmentally friendly facility that will be a good

neighbor, not only to the residents of Carbon County, but they're going to be a good neighbor to the whole state of Wyoming.

This also allows Carbon County and the state of Wyoming to be at the forefront of some of our energy needs; and we could showcase this effort, not only to United States, but to the rest of the world. So we could also not have to rely on dependence of oil from the foreign countries that right now -- that aren't too friendly right now.

And why not use homegrown U.S. oil and coal, that we have here, to provide needs for our gasoline industry? I don't think we're going to find -- it's going to be, I mean, a lot of years before we are not going to be driving with gasoline. I know there's some technologies out there, using hydrogen and electricity, but it's going to be down the future before you can find a hydrogen-powered or an electric plug-in throughout the country. We're going to have to rely on gas. We might as well use it right here in our own country, and use our own people and use our coal and use our natural resources we already have.

I think this will be a boon to the economy. It'll be a good neighbor to all of us. The people of Carbon County, we're needing more jobs. Right now our

unemployment rate from a year ago was 3-point -- it was 3.1 percent a year ago. Now it's up to 7.1 percent. We're losing population. We're losing people. We're losing jobs.

This is not only fantastic to help the economy here; it'll provide, like I said, jobs and opportunities for people. Plus, it'll be -- it'll be something that we can use to -- like I mentioned, programs with the college, to show students and kids how they can -- I mean, they can see a facility actually in use.

But that's really all I wanted to say. I have -- you know, it's -- it's just going to help. Anytime you bring in, a new company, bring in over 450 jobs, bring in the construction workers, it's a win-win situation for us. And actually this will be a win-win situation for the United States. And anybody that drives a car and uses gas, it's a win.

(Telephonic interruption.)

CINDY WALLACE: And I've got written comments I'd like to hand in.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you very much.

If everyone could turn off their cell phones.

Right up next, we've got Martha Martinez del Rio. And on deck is Don Collins.

MARTHA MARTINEZ DEL RIO: Hi, my name is

Martha Martinez del Rio; M-a-r-t-h-a, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z d-e-l R-i-o. I'm a resident of Albany County, in Laramie. I am representing myself as a citizen, but I also come as a member of the Sierra Club and an officer on the State Executive Committee. And I'm afraid I'm a voice of dissent in this current project, so I'll share my concerns.

The loan guarantee is asking for a great deal of money for a very promising but, I think, not totally proven technology in terms of its CO2 sequestration. And I think we're needing to remember, we're working on global warming concerns; and I think this is a big concern, that we're adding, instead of subtracting, in the long run.

I'd rather see the tax dollars go towards conservation; increasing fuel efficiency; that we don't need, we in Wyoming don't need, to produce more oil at home. And we could use our tax dollars to develop cleaner alternative energy options, some of which would provide good local job opportunities in the area. And we can see that evidenced by wind development that is going on, like crazy, around us.

Another concern is, just how clean will the air emissions be that are coming out of the plant? I understand maybe 85 percent of allowable particulate

matter will be emitted. And if this is true, will it affect the health of our local environment, our rivers, our streams, the people who live particularly in the neighborhood of the plant? And what is it going to do to those of us who live downwind, like those of us who live in Laramie?

I think we must not forget that the proposed plant and its pipelines are also in core habitat areas for sage grouse. That has been mentioned. We're going to look into endangered species. And we need to really remember that if its current status increases to that of endangered species, it's going to affect the entire oil and gas exploration of the state.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Don Collins. And on deck we have Bill Nation.

DON COLLINS: Don Collins; D-o-n, C-o-l-l-i-n-s; of the Western Research Institute.

The comments I would like to bring up are going to fall along with the previous speaker, and that is that, with this technology -- they didn't really talk about it too much, but we're involved in research and development ourselves, to clean up contaminated soils and waters and reduce emissions from power plants. And even biofuel processing fuel plants are actually very

high in contamination, similar to other fossil plants.

But this is one of the -- this will be the world's cleanest plant. It'll emit less than, what, a fraction of 1 percent of mercury which is in the ecosystem Back East, so we won't have contamination of our fish like there is Back East. And a lot of that, of course, was from incineration plants for medicinal and medical waste, which was probably 90 percent more than emissions from coal back there. But that's stuck in the ecosystem. So this plant will not put mercury into the ecosystem. It also will not put arsenic into the ecosystem, which the American Medical Association showed, a couple years ago, in the water supply could be a contributor to diabetes.

So this is going to be the cleanest plant, even cleaner than any of the biofuel plants, that we current are looking at today.

And its consumption of water is far less than converting coal to ethanol for transportation fuels; far, far less. A lot of those plants were shut down because their consumption of water from the regional water supplies was so great that it would detrimentally harm the water supply to the local populations.

So I want to, you know, talk about those particular aspects, have those -- how they're considered

in how you elevate the ecological impact to the wildlife, which is a very big industry in Wyoming, and the fish and game and keeping a healthy fishing industry and the tourism industry.

This is -- this is going to be setting the state's -- as Mark Northam said, setting the bar. And the national and international ramifications of that are, now we've got a place where Wyoming has demonstrated this is doable. It's no longer lip service. So now other foreign countries that are using coal, still pursuing that, have a role model to follow. And those are the big local ramifications of this project, going perhaps to the rest of the world.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Up next we have Bill Nation. And on deck is Gaye Stockman.

BILL NATION: My name is Bill Nation; B-i-l-l, N-a-t-i-o-n. And I find that the further down the list of speakers you get, the less you have to say, because it becomes redundant.

But that being said, I want to speak on behalf of this project. I think, as you've heard in the past, it is the right thing to do, at the right time. As a citizen of the United States and a resident of Carbon

County, I think that it's time that we become more independent and self-sufficient, and this is a way of doing that.

It's -- it's a challenge. My day job is roadway superintendent, and we take care of about a thousand and fifty miles of road, with 13 people. All of this road that goes out there from this town of Medicine Bow will be under our auspices as far as the maintenance and so forth goes.

This company has demonstrated that it's willing to step up and do what's necessary to come in and develop this coal in a safe manner and be good citizens, and I would invite a close scrutiny by the Department of Energy of this project. But I speak in favor of it, and I think it's the right thing to do.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Up next we have Gail (sic) Stockman. And on deck is Lonnie Hobbs.

GAYE STOCKMAN: Hello, my name is Gaye Stockman; G-a-y-e, S-t-o-c-k-m-a-n. And I'm the CEO for Laramie Economic Development Corporation, and I'm here to speak on behalf of our board of directors. And we also service Albany County, and we're neighbors with Carbon County.

We want to speak up in support of this. We recognize that it's not only Carbon County that will be impacted by the economic impacts to the community and for the job creation, the services, the groceries, and all of that other. We know that Medicine Bow and Hannah and Rock River will have huge impacts, but we recognize that Laramie will also.

And I'm going to follow what Cindy did. I'm going to ask my board members, I have several of them here, to stand up also.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Anyway, we recognize that it is really important. We also are really excited about the fact that we're using our resources in a cleaner technology. It also impacts the university, and we're pleased about that as well.

So we will be sending in letters. You've been receiving a lot of letters from us already.

And thank you very much.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Up next we have Lonnie Hobbs. And on deck is Cynthia -- I can't read the last name. Cynthia DeChore maybe? Anyway, Cynthia's on deck.

LONNIE HOBBS: Hi, I'm Lonnie Hobbs, and I represent the Carbon County Economic Development

Corporation. I'm currently the president elect.

And I think that a lot of people have made some good points about the jobs, because we're first going to start out with over 2,000 jobs. But I think what we forgot is the residual jobs, all the extra people that'll be hired to run motels and stores and things like that. That's going to bring a lot more jobs to this county.

Now, even if they're importing jobs, let's say they hire out of state and bring people in to help work, we have to remember one thing: For every dollar that's spent in Carbon County, that dollar turns seven times. We're talking grocery stores, convenience stores, fast food, restaurants, gas stations. So, I mean, the economy circulates, and I think it's one thing people have not brought up yet.

I also think the company has met and exceeded everything that's been expected in every regulation that has came before them. And they've proven: Hey, we can do this. Plus, it will be the most state-of-the-art facility in the country. So I think the actual impact is going to be a lot less than people will try to represent it to be.

I think the job impact is what I'm more in tune with, being with the EDC of the county. You have

to remember, if you give a guy a choice, have a job or maybe run a little piece of grass, give them self-respect and a way to feed his family, what is he going to take?

So that's basically all I have to say. Let's give some people some self-respect. Let's give them some jobs and get it going.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Cynthia from the Medicine Bow Town Council. And up next is Steve Gist (sic).

CINDY CHASE: I'm Cindy Chase, and I'm from the Medicine Bow Town Council. And I would like to welcome DKRW and all the people that it will bring, and I would certainly do whatever I could to help this go.

I think that this country values education. We have a lot of institutions of education. And we certainly should be able to figure out how to provide a lot of jobs and a lot of work and do it without harming the water, harming the air, harming the wildlife. None of us want to see that. But I would appreciate it if we could all work together to get this done.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thanks for your comments.

And Steve Gist. And Ryan Lance is on deck.

STEVE GISI: Yes, I'm Steve Gisi, G-i-s-i. And I want to, again, welcome you all for coming here.

We really appreciate it.

And I just wanted to say, I don't want to say a whole a lot, but we really, really want you here. We want this project to go through. And whatever it takes, I think I speak for most of us in the town, we do want this to go forward.

And I will save time for other people to speak, and I will e-mail my further comments, once I've processed what others are saying.

And I would like to mention that the prairie chickens are not actually endangered. Whoever made that comment, they're -- they're looking at putting them on that list, but they're not on there yet, anymore than the prairie dogs are. So I just wanted to clarify that.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thanks for your comments.

If I could remind everyone, please spell your names, first and last, when you speak; and let me know what organization you're representing, if you're representing an organization.

Okay. Up next is Ryan Lance. And on deck is David Challacomb.

RYAN LANCE: Ryan Lance; R-y-a-n, L-a-n-c-e. I am here from Cheyenne, from Governor Freudenthal's office. And what you learn pretty quickly, as you're

driving the roads of this state, is that the brilliance meter gets a lot higher as you get further away from Cheyenne.

We're very pleased to be here. I'm very pleased to represent the governor. Last evening he signed an initial letter of support for the project. It's not the first one. In 2008 he -- he issued his first letter of support for the project. And we're pleased to issue our second one, following the issuance of the State Industrial Siting Permitting and the EQ and State Engineers Permitting.

Along with that letter, the governor also submitted a formal request to participate as cooperating agencies under the CQ regulations. So we will bring the full measure of state resources and agency expertise to bear, so we can help move this project along as quickly as possible, create jobs, and hopefully add to the capacity to create clean and renewable -- functional renewable energy, given the resources we have around us here, for the long haul.

The governor called me, as I was driving over, and caught me in Laramie. And he's in San Diego, at the Western Governors Association, and he wanted me to relate to the good folks of Medicine Bow and the surrounding communities that he would much rather be

here than in San Diego, listening to a bunch of other blowhard governors. But the realities of the circumstance is that he wasn't able to be here, so he sent me.

And we're very pleased to support the project. We look forward to a lasting relationship not only with the local governments, who, unfortunately, recently heard, in the governor's budget message, that times are not as good in Wyoming as they have been. And we all stand to feel this recession sooner rather than later. And hopefully, with projects like this in the hopper, we can get rig hands busy, we can get miners busy, and we can start back to the business of building the state.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

David Challacomb is up. And on deck is Kenneth Klouda.

DAVID CHALLACOMB: My name is David Challacomb. That's D-a-v-i-d, C-h-a-l-l-a-c-o-m-b. I represent Mountain Cement Company. And we are here to support this project. We foresee it as a economic boon for the area, much needed.

We are one of those struggling companies, with the economy as it is right now, and we'd like to see this go forward; hopefully, save a lot of jobs in the

area. There's -- we struggle daily, keeping our plant running. With the way the economy is going, we've seen 14 plants throughout the United States go down, cement plants, and project another 15 in the next two to five years. So we would really like to see this project go.

And thank you very much.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Up next is Kenneth Klouda. And on deck is Steve Golnar.

KENNETH KLOUDA: Good evening, I'm Kenneth Klouda; K-e-n-n-e-t-h, K-l-o-u-d-a. I'm currently the mayor of the City of Rawlins. I'm here with the City manager and two members of our council.

As I told folks today, in the last few days what I was up to, to come down here tonight and possibly speak, the support was unanimous; immediately followed by questions of: That's a lot jobs. What are we going to do about . . . How are we going to house them? How are we going to feed them? After we feed them and they flush the toilet, what are we going to do with that? The whole -- everything that the Environmental Imact Statement is going to cover.

I assured them that there would be comment periods, and they could be part of that process.

Having said that, my comment to both the DKRW

and the DOE would be that this process must have logic and common sense and cooperation. If it is not done openly, honestly, and the communication is not continuous, it will be a detriment to the DOE, to DKRW, Carbon County, and this project.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

And just to let you all know, we do plan on communicating as openly and honestly as -- as we can, with everyone on this, during this process.

Steve Golnar is up next.

STEVE GOLNAR: Steve Golnar.

MS. ALEXANDER: And on deck is Cary Bruce.

STEVE GOLNAR: It's S-t-e-v-e; big G, little o-l-n-a-r.

As a city in Carbon County, Wyoming, we are financially challenged at this time, and certainly we're interested in potential for the jobs associated with this project. This project and the clean-coal approach, the environmental-friendly technology, creates a potential for cutting-edge -- cutting-edge economy and a potential for supply-and-support industries.

We, in the city of Rawlins, would support the development of those types of industries, both in the support area and also in the service area, to locate in

our community, and we would work with them to do that.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Okay. Up next is Cary Bruce. And on deck is Beth Buskirk.

Cary Bruce?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.

MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Then Beth Buskirk.

BETH BUSKIRK: B-e-t-h, B-u-s-k-i-r-k. I think I'm going to speak for people who feel the way I do and may not talk. I like to come to the Medicine Bow area and the Shirley Basin just to walk around. It's one of the most important reasons to live in Wyoming. There are all kinds of beautiful paintings of Wyoming, and it's usually not of industrial coal-to-liquid plants.

I know that there are ranchers and other citizens who will be disappointed to see the change in the landscape. I don't know how you measure that. I don't know how you write about it in an environmental impact statement. But I know many people will be disappointed to see fast-food restaurants in Medicine Bow, and in Hannah perhaps. And that they will borne these changes.

And as far as energy independence goes, the

United States uses so much gasoline, this is really just a drop in the bucket. It's a nice idea, but it's not going to really change too much.

I understand the need for jobs here. I have a job, so I'm not -- I don't need a job. I understand that need, but I feel extremely conflicted about this. And I'm sure I'm not alone.

So that's all.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Up next we have Martha --

MARTHA MARTINEZ DEL RIO: I spoke already.

MS. ALEXANDER: Oh, you're signed up here.

Then Tucker Fagan.

TUCKER FAGAN: My name is Tucker Fagan; T-u-c-k-e-r, F as in Frank, a-g-a-n. And I'm joined by Patty Smith from Senator Barrasso's office. I'm chief of staff for Cynthia Lummis. I carry the mail.

We'd like to offer our strong support for the Medicine Bow Fuel and Power, LLC, coal-to-liquids project. This facility will provide much-needed supplies of transportation fuels to American consumers, in an innovative, environmentally sensitive manner.

Medicine Bow Fuel and Power, LLC, is moving forward with their plans to build a coal-to-liquids facility in Medicine Bow, Wyoming. The project will

provide exciting new economic and employment opportunities for this community and the surrounding areas. At its peak construction period, the project will create approximately 2,300 jobs. After construction's finished, the project will employee 450 people to run the facility.

Further, by converting locally mined coal into 20,000 barrels of gasoline per day, this facility will help our nation reduce its dependence on foreign sources of petroleum. It's our understanding that the gasoline produced at this facility will be sold into the Denver, Colorado, market, replacing gasoline that is currently imported into the Denver region.

The conversion process to be employed at the Medicine Bow facility has several environmental benefits. As part of the production process, the plant will capture carbon dioxide and use it for enhanced oil recovery. This technique is a time-tested, successful process for producing additional oil from depleted U.S. oil reserves.

The end-product transportation fuel from a coal-to-liquids project will also have low levels of sulfur, benzine, and result in lower carbon dioxide emissions than competing imported fuel.

Finally, the project will assist in the

demonstration of carbon capture and storage techniques critical to finding new and cleaner ways to utilize our nation's vast remaining coal reserves.

We appreciate your attention to our letter and urge you to move in an expeditious manner to make this project a reality.

Senator Mike Enzi, Senator John Barrasso, Representative Cynthia Lummis.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

TUCKER FAGAN: Okay. Now I'm off the clock.

MS. ALEXANDER: Okay.

TUCKER FAGAN: I was a Strategic Air Command wing commander. I selected, trained, equipped, and sent kids to war. I put them on the airplane.

This is the face of national security. It's not some hard-to-understand concept. We will kill seven kids today, tomorrow, the next day. This is a part of that component to maintain stability in the world. The more we are energy independent, we can stop killing our kids.

So I believe there should be an international component as a part of your discretion and what you make, because there's a balance there. And too many people think that's something else. It is not.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

I apologize. I believe I missed someone, Kevin Colman.

KEVIN COLMAN: Yeah.

MS. ALEXANDER: And I believe you're the last person we've got on our list. If anyone else would like to speak afterwards -- okay, we've got one more after. Okay. Kevin Colman, and then one more.

KEVIN COLMAN: Man you people are short. Kevin Colman. First name, you should know; Colman, C-o-l-m-a-n. Mayor of Medicine Bow.

First off, on behalf of the town, we do support this project. We're not an outsider, looking in, thinking: We don't want growth, we don't want jobs, or we don't want things, you know. I remember tear-filled eyes when they closed our high school and that pride that left. We want that back. The only way to get that back is to get people, to get jobs, and to get the things that are necessary.

Is it going to be touch? Oh, hell, yeah. There's 2500 people just in the construction phase, on top of extra people here trying to make a buck just like everybody else. Is it going to be rough? Yeah. Has there ever been a challenge in Carbon County we haven't chose to rise to or to try to meet? No. The big one is

the economical stage once this plant is completed.

Now, everyone says wind energy is the greatest gift. You know, it looks like good on paper, brings in 450 jobs throughout the process that takes less than a year. They come in, spend their money, and go to the next open space of land. Then they hire ten, if that, to maintain it. Ten people.

Ten people don't make a difference. You know, ten people don't bring back your schools or help an aging community to help with water bills or trash bills or things of that nature. It takes a large group of people. It takes a large commitment to see a future become.

Jobs are one of the most important things. We have the University of Wyoming, what, 60 miles away? We have one of the best engineering departments in the United States. We train them. We equip them. We get them ready for the world. And they leave. Because there's nothing here. We have scientists that work in hotels, work at McDonald's, because this is where they choose to live but the industry isn't here.

When we start looking at environmental impacts and so forth, yes, there's going to be environmental impacts. I would like to remind you that when we talk about the Shirley Basin and the Shirley Mountains and so

forth, that's 40 miles from the site. Unfortunately, we live in Wyoming, not Pennsylvania. Because we can see for hundreds of miles, so it's going to be in a view shed. But when we start looking at things, of what we're actually changing, it's night-and-day difference.

The other great thing is, finally Wyoming's willing to see that the money's not in transportation of our products, but in the manufacturing of what they produce. If it wasn't there, people wouldn't buy coal to begin with, because it would cost too much to turn into something. It's a big business.

The other impact that I think we really need is, like the gentleman said right before. We talk about sage chickens; we talk about the sage brush, specific types of cactus and so forth. But one of the greatest resources that we are losing, on a regular basis, is our young men and women that are in the armed forces, fighting for the product that we have the availability to produce, but choose not to.

We talk about environmental quality, smog and pollution and things of that nature, and how we have to capture this and fix it and make things better. And major companies say it's too expensive. Here's a company that came in and said: This is a waste, that people aren't capturing it and selling it.

There's a market for this stuff. Who ever thought there would be a market for mercury? But yet it's out there. People say it's too much money, but yet they found a way to make a profit on what their waste product is.

You know, I am a little concerned. My brother has been on three tours in Iraq, and is looking at a fourth tour, in Afghanistan, to fight for a product we can produce right here.

So my challenge to you folks is, they've met the requirements. That's what the law states. What's the law state? Not what all of us may think or whatever. They've met the requirements.

I think the problem is, we keep wanting to beat another dead horse. It's like, did they meet them really good enough? Did they meet them perfect enough? Did they meet them and cross extra t's or dot extra i's? The law says this: If they've met those requirements, then it's your guys's duty, responsibility, to let this project go.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Okay. We do have three other people who've signed up. Up next is -- oh, two other people: Duane Short, and on tap is Ralph Brokaw.

DUANE SHORT: I'm Duane Short. And that's

D-u-a-n-e, and Short just like it sounds. And I'm here representing Biodiversity Conservation Alliance in Laramie, Wyoming.

I'm not going to stand up here and -- and -- and try to contradict the fact that this plant would bring jobs not just to Medicine Bow, but to the entire county and beyond. I'm here to point out some of the downside that we often don't like to look at when we get into cheerleading sessions.

There are environmental concerns associated with -- with this plant. We call it clean coal. It's kind of like saying a cigarette with a filter is -- is a clean cigarette. Well, it might be cleaner than the dirty one without the filter, but there's no such thing as clean coal. And one of the byproducts of this plant will be CO2. And CO2 sounds pretty innocuous. But if anyone is willing to try the experiment, they can hold their breath for about one minute and find out just how toxic CO2 is. I'm serious about that.

This plant will supposedly capture CO2, and it can do that. CO2 capture is a fairly well-proven technology, but what happens to it after it's captured is not so -- so well proven. Underground sequestration, which is one of the components of this plant, is a very unproven science. And I don't think there's anyone here

that can look you in the eye and say, "Oh, no, we have it all figured out." I don't think there's anyone that can do that.

So I want the people particularly of Medicine Bow and Rock River to consider that.

I also want to point out that the CO2 that is going to be used for extraction of oil, there is a limited market for that. Exxon already does a lot of this, and it's located near the oil fields where it's used. In this case, it would have to be piped.

And for every -- for about every one unit of CO2 used to produce more oil from the ground, about nine units end up in the atmosphere. And the EPA, and this isn't -- whether you -- whether you think it's right or not, we are monitoring CO2 emissions. So this plant could use up all the credit this entire area has; and someone who wanted to start their own business that produces some CO2, they can't do it, because you're already over quota. So if you want to put all your eggs in this basket, you might say, "Hey, let's go for it."

Also, this has been mentioned several times before, but this plant is located right in the middle of a sage grouse core area. And a core area is an area that, even the governor's office has said, we don't want to develop these areas. So on one hand, there's

support; on the other, there's an issue there.

So there's some downsides to this. And I want everybody to take a look at that and give it serious consideration. And it's tough to do this when jobs are at stake, and I recognize that as much as anyone. But we talk about lofty things like national security. Well, environmental issues are pretty lofty too, because they involve your kids and their kids and their kids beyond, so please consider that.

And that's all I have at this point.

MS. ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you for your comments.

Ralph Brokaw, we have you up next.

And Ralph is the last person on the list. If anybody else would like to comment after he's done, just let us know. You can come on up to this microphone after he's done. Thank you.

RALPH BROKAW: Hi, my name is Ralph Brokaw. I'm a local supervisor on the Medicine Bow Conservation District. I'm also the state president of the State Association of Conservation Districts representing the state's 34 districts. And Wyoming conservation districts have statutory responsibility for the wise use of our natural resources. That includes multiple use of our public lands as well.

Welcome to Medicine Bow, Wyoming. I'm in production agriculture. This is cow country. I think the United States has 6 percent of the global population, and we're such energy hogs that we consume 25 percent of the world's energy resources. Let me tell you the rest of that fact, that people often neglect. Production agriculture in the United States, using that 25 percent energy, produces food for 75 percent of the world.

So on your way back to your big city, look out and appreciate anew what Wyoming has. We value our open space. We value our natural resources. And we value production agriculture. It's the backbone of Wyoming.

I know we've had a good working relationship with the company, up to date. We look forward to working with the Department of Energy. As you know, we've put in a formal request, as a form of local government, to have cooperating agency status as you develop this EIS. I encourage you to give us consideration for that.

Our areas of expertise, of course, are water quality. We're very serious about that in the Medicine Bow Conservation District. We're proud we have no DEQ 303B listed streams in our district. We'd like to work with you on your EIS to maintain that reputation we have

here in the Medicine Bow area.

Up-range management, we have policies for all components within that ecosystem; range cattle, wildlife. We work closely with Game and Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in the Shirley Basin, one of the last greatest natural grasslands in the United States. We're very active there with sage grouse, plovers. There's a list of dozens species that we work with every day.

I know, in building this, this company and this operation, we look forward to working with you and making positive comments on how we can mitigate the actual impacts you will have, because a company will have impacts on our natural resources. But there's many benefits to that, and I think, through proper mitigation, we can make it so that those values of Wyoming, production agriculture and open space and wildlife, are given careful consideration.

We can also provide local social and economic benefits to our county, to our local community here in Medicine Bow, and the surrounding area. And we just look forward to working with you as you develop this EIS and make it a win-win for all people that live here.

Thank you.

MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you for your comments.

Is there anyone else who would like to speak

this evening?

Okay. Just one last time, to let you know, all oral comments tonight, and written comments that you might send and have already sent in or will send in later, will be given equal weight. And if you would like to send in written comments, there are comment forms on the side table and in the back table there. And the addresses to send them, either by ground mail or by e-mail, are also listed on the fact sheets over at the side table.

Okay. Anyone else? Last comment?

Okay. Thank you all very much for coming this evening. It's been very nice meeting you all, and I hope everybody has happy holidays.

(The hearing adjourned at 8:32 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CARLA D. CAPRITTA, Registered Professional Reporter, certify;

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth.

That all foregoing proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed;

That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes so taken;

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee of any of the parties, nor financially interested in the action;

I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of Colorado, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2009.

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Carla D. Capritta, RPR