

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS IN THE MATTER OF
PROPOSED PINON RIDGE MILL

Taken at Nucla High School

224 West 4th Avenue

Nucla, Colorado

6:01 p.m.

January 21, 2010

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1 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: All right.
2 We're going to go ahead and begin the public hearing
3 this evening.
4 My name is Richard Brown, I've been a Judge
5 now for about three decades. And I don't know why I
6 agreed to this.
7 We're going to try to keep the meeting
8 going and organized in the interest of time as well as
9 the interest of safety, we have some weather going on
10 out here that doesn't look like it's going to get any
11 better.
12 The purpose of this meeting, as you know,
13 is for the public, you folks, to share your comments and
14 viewpoints or your concerns concerning the application
15 by the Pinion Ridge Mill before the Department of
16 Health, who are represented here, and I'm going to
17 introduce them in just a moment.
18 With me is my assistant, Becky Wolford,
19 and she is going to be doing the timing of the speaker,
20 she is going to be furnishing me the names of the
21 speakers who are going to be speaking.
22 The gentleman on the right is Mr. Keith
23 Rusk, he's a certified shorthand reporter. And I've had
24 the pleasure of working with him over a lot of years and
25 we are both just as old as we look, I'm afraid. Keith

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1 is going to be taking down everything verbatim and it is
2 pretty important for the speakers if you will not try to
3 speak any faster than I'm speaking now and speak as
4 distinctly as you can. And I'll have a couple comments
5 to say about that in just a moment. But there is a
6 verbatim record being taken of the proceedings here
7 tonight.
8 I would like to recognize some folks from
9 the County of Montrose. The Chairman of the Board of
10 County Commissioners, Mr. Ron Henderson, is here, he is
11 seated in the front row. And with him is Mr. Jeff
12 Smith, who is the County Manager for Montrose.
13 Now, the County commissioners are here to
14 observe and to listen. They are not here in an official
15 capacity, they're here to take notes and hear what's
16 being said, to hear everybody's comments.
17 Seated behind me on my left are
18 representatives from the Department of Health, and I
19 would like you to meet Mr. Steve Tarlton the program
20 manager for the Department of Health, and Mr. Tarlton
21 has a few words to say.
22 STEVE TARLTON: I'm Steve Tarlton,
23 I'm program manager for the radiation control program
24 for the Colorado Department of Public Health and
25 Environment. And I want to thank you all for coming out

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1 tonight to give us your opinion. We're looking for lots
2 of comments on this application. It isn't a public
3 vote, but we do want a hear from you, we want to
4 understand the issues. And there are some issues that
5 local people understand better than we do coming from
6 this side of the state. So it is very important that we
7 get your perspective on that so that we understand the
8 issues you might have.
9 I want to introduce the members of the team
10 that are working on the license application and review.
11 There's Phil Egidi, Phil is in our Grand Junction office
12 and he's project manager.
13 Edgar Ethington, who will be working on
14 this, primarily focusing on southern Colorado.
15 Jennifer Opila, is the unit leader of the
16 Radiation Management Unit.
17 Jim Grice is the licensing lead for us.
18 And Warren Smith is our manager of
19 Community Involvement for our division.
20 The process that we are going to follow in
21 reviewing this is actually set in the Radiation Control
22 Act, so many of the time lines that we talk about and
23 requirements that we have are actually specified in law
24 rather than in regulations. So the regulation
25 supposedly complement that, but the laws of the public

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1 process as are defined very specifically in our
2 statutes. And a result we end up with very specific
3 dates that we have to follow.
4 So the first one is the application is
5 submitted to us and we have thirty days to decide
6 whether or not the application is complete enough to go
7 through a detailed type of review.
8 So we received the application on November
9 18. By the way, this information is in a handout at the
10 table. I came in later than a lot of you guys, so if
11 you didn't get one, there's a small sheet over at the
12 sign-in table that has this information on it.
13 We received the application on November 18.
14 On December 18 we determined it to be complete. And
15 that date triggers a requirement that Energy Fuels hold
16 two public meetings in a certain specified time frame.
17 So the first public meeting has to be held
18 within 45 days, and that's tonight. And the second
19 public meeting has to beheld within 30 days of the first
20 public meeting. And so that will be the one held on
21 February 17 in Montrose.
22 There is also a trigger that the County
23 Commissioners are supposed to comment on the
24 environmental report within 90 days of first public
25 hearing.

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1 So whatever the public hearing date that is
2 set for that first hearing, tonight, then that it
3 triggers that they have to have comments on the
4 environmental report to us within 90 days.
5 Then there is another set of triggers that
6 relate to when we have to complete our review and make a
7 decision on the license. And so when we receive the
8 County Commissioner report, it's 270 days from the
9 County Commissioner report, when it's given, so that
10 would be something like January 17, 2011.
11 If we don't get comments from the County
12 Commissioners, or we get their comments late, we can't
13 make a decision any later than February 14, 2011.
14 So that's the process we've got.
15 Now, most people in this room, I suspect,
16 have not had a chance to read all 15 volumes of the
17 application in the amount of time you've had to look at
18 it. So we expect that we will have additional comment
19 meetings later on in the process.
20 So, you know, we would like to hear from
21 you if we take the time to have another public meeting
22 about half past April or June, and if you don't think
23 we're doing enough, let me know and we'll figure what we
24 need to do.
25 At any rate, that's all I have to say.

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1 I do want to point out, we do have contact
2 information for how you can comment on the documents,
3 where you can review the documents. Most of you already
4 know that, but there are copies available in Montrose
5 and Naturita, they're at the Nucla Library, and online.
6 So we try to make it as easy as possible.
7 There's also a mechanism to allow you to
8 sign up to receive these notifications of additional
9 meetings or some things that may occur during the
10 review.
11 So we are here to listen to you. This
12 isn't a discussion tonight, this isn't a question and
13 answer, we're here to hear what you have to say, so we
14 should probably get on with that.
15 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thanks,
16 Steve.
17 Next we're going to have a presentation by
18 Energy Fuels. This is going to be presented by Mr.
19 Frank Filas of Energy Fuels. This is designed to be a
20 15 to 20 minute overview of the proposed mill for you.
21 And after that we will get into the public comment
22 session.
23 FRANK FILAS: My name is Frank Filas,
24 I'm the Environmental Manager for Energy Fuels and I'm
25 going to give you a 20-minute presentation. In that

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1 presentation I'm going to introduce you to Energy Fuels
2 and our proposed mill. We'll show you the project
3 location. We'll touch briefly on the regulatory
4 requirements. We'll also talk about the facility design
5 and operation and the environmental protection measures
6 that have been built into the design. We'll talk a
7 little bit about worker and public safety, closure and
8 reclamation, and in closing we'll discuss the project
9 benefits.
10 Energy Fuels is a public company, we
11 specialize in mineral exploration, development and
12 mining and milling of uranium/vanadium properties.
13 We're a local company, I think as most of you know, most
14 of our managers are from Colorado, long-time members of
15 Colorado and many from the West Slope of Colorado. We
16 have offices in Nucla and Lakewood. We also have an
17 office in Kanab, Utah.
18 We are committed to ensure that any uranium
19 mill facilities is an economic asset to Western Montrose
20 County, and our design and implementation of these plans
21 are as a design to protect Colorado's environment for
22 future generations.
23 The purpose of the Pinon Ridge Mill is to
24 receive uranium/vanadium ore from local mines and
25 process that ore into uranium oxide, yellow cake and

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1 vanadium oxide.
2 We are asking to be licensed for 500 tons
3 of ore per day. In the future if market conditions
4 permit, we would hopefully be able to expand that mill
5 to a thousand tons per day. But right now what we are
6 permitting with the state of Colorado is a 500-ton per
7 day mill, just as we did as part of our special use
8 permit with the county.
9 The uranium and vanadium oxide are sealed
10 as we process them, they are sealed in 55-gallon steel
11 drums and transported off site for further processing at
12 other facilities. And the proposed operating life of
13 the mill is forty years.
14 Uranium/vanadium has many uses, the primary
15 use of uranium, though, is to, is used to build fuel
16 rods for power plants. Our mill will produce 770,000
17 pounds of uranium oxide per year. Then that uranium is
18 processed into uranium fuel rods that's equivalent to
19 1,500 megawatts per year of energy. That's equivalent
20 to one and a half Denver metropolitan areas, the energy
21 that's consumed by that area of our state per year. So
22 even though we're a small, relatively small mill, what
23 we put out has tremendous value.
24 Vanadium also has many uses, it's used in
25 the manufacture of industrial chemicals, surgical

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1 instruments, high stress steel alloys, and as many
2 people are pointing out to me these days, it's also used
3 for a new generation of batteries for renewable energy
4 systems. The mill will produce 2,700,000 pounds of
5 vanadium oxide per year.

6 Uranium mills in the state of Colorado are
7 regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health
8 and Environment. They are regulated by the state
9 because they have an agreement with the Nuclear
10 Regulatory Commission, and under that agreement the
11 state of Colorado's rules and regulations and laws are
12 at least as stringent as the NRC's laws and rules, they
13 can be more stringent in some cases.

14 The County's input is also critical,
15 especially with regarding the evaluation of land use,
16 social, economical and other local impacts.

17 We are also, excuse me, we are also
18 regulated by many other state, local and federal
19 agencies, but that's not the purpose of tonight, we're
20 going on to focus in on the Colorado Department of
21 Public Health and Environment regulatory requirements.

22 As Steve Tarlton mentioned, we did file a
23 radioactive material license application in November 18.
24 It consisted of 15 volumes, you can see there on the
25 right, about 5 feet thick. There's also an

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1 environmental report that you see there on the left that
2 basically summarizes that application and they both look
3 at the impact associated with the license proposal. So
4 the environmental, excuse me, the environmental report
5 is, again, to summarize the proposed project and that's
6 where you would want to start if you want to know more
7 about the mill. If you are interested in specific
8 areas, I'm not going to go into what is in every volume,
9 but they are laid out in a somewhat logical fashion.
10 You'll see Volumes 1 and 2 have the plans for the
11 facility design.

12 For example, Volume 5 is ground water.
13 Volume 7 and 8 is our climate and air quality data and
14 so on. So if there's a specific area that you're
15 interested in, we recommend that you either visit the
16 State's website, or you can check in at the Nucla
17 Library or the Montrose County Land Use Department and
18 they will have full application hard copies available
19 for your review.

20 Our project is located between Bedrock,
21 Colorado and Naturita. We are at mile post 23. The
22 site is an 880 acre private parcel that we own. As you
23 see by the underground uranium mines and the open pit
24 mines, they're just south of the site. We are in an
25 area that has produced significant quantities of uranium

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1 historically. You also see that Highway 90 runs to the
2 north edge of the property.

3 The processing of uranium and vanadium
4 basically is a four-stage process. And I'm going to put
5 this down so I can grab my pointer. In the first stage
6 we receive the ore at essentially an ore pad and from
7 there it goes from a conveyor into SAG mill. SAG mill
8 is short for semi-autogenous grinding mill. It's
9 basically like a large washing machine which we add
10 water and ore and steels balls and we rotate that drum
11 until that ore is ground into a very fine slurry. From
12 there it goes through a series of leach tanks where
13 sulfuric acid is used to extract the metals out of
14 solution.

15 After it's leached it comes down to first
16 we recover the uranium and then we recover the vanadium.
17 Each of these processes involve using organic extraction
18 to both extract uranium, vanadium and then concentrate.
19 Once we have the concentrated solution, that solution is
20 dried and then packaged into these 55-gallon steel
21 drums.

22 After the ore, metals are extracted from
23 the ore, the waste material goes out to our tailings
24 disposal area. And any waste water that we get, we try
25 to use all the water we can, but any water that we

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1 cannot efficiently use comes out to evaporation ponds.
2 This is the raffinate from the vanadium circuit and we
3 evaporate that water.

4 This shows the site plan, it shows the
5 features that I just described in the schematic.
6 Basically the mill is on the very south end of the site
7 and an ore pad is there. Highway 90 runs across the
8 north end of the site and we have an access road that
9 comes down here to the ore pad. And then from the ore
10 pad it goes into the mill where we extract the uranium
11 and vanadium.

12 The solid waste comes out to this first
13 cell, Cell A here. Any excess water that we get
14 evaporates on this 40-acre evaporation pond area here.
15 The shaded areas are for potential future expansion
16 tailing Cells B and C and future evaporation ponds.

17 And this is a rendering of what that
18 facility is expected to look like at full build out with
19 all cells and 80 acres for the evaporation pond.

20 We have built quite a bit of environmental
21 protection into our mill designs and plans, and it
22 started off with site selection and continued on from
23 there.

24 When we evaluated sites we probably looked
25 at about two dozen possible sites. Out of those two

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1 dozen, we selected seven sites that we thought would
2 work and we did a much more detailed analysis on those
3 seven sites. We were helped by consultants who are very
4 knowledgeable in the area. Of the seven sites, though,
5 this site here was far superior.

6 A few of the features that make it a good
7 site for milling is that there is no ground water or
8 surface water in our vicinity. In other words, if we do
9 have a spill or release there's no real pathway to
10 contaminate ground or surface water. It's also very
11 seismically stable. It's a relatively remote location
12 with the nearest downwind resident located three miles
13 east of the site.

14 As I mentioned before, it's in close
15 proximity to uranium mines, not just immediately
16 adjacent to us, but within a 50 to 60-mile radius of our
17 site we have quite a few uranium mines, many of them are
18 permitted and would like to ship ore to us. And also
19 it's an easy and safe access to Highway 90.

20 We have been collecting baseline data now
21 for over two years. I'm not going to name everything on
22 here, but you can see the usual baseline resource
23 studies. All these studies are available in our mill
24 license application for your review. They are also
25 summarized in the environmental report.

15

1 Once we decided and selected this site, the
2 next thing was we did our best to design this facility
3 so that it would not be an eyesore, or that -- that we
4 would be good neighbors, put it that way. And part,
5 some of the things we did is we located the mill
6 facility three-quarters of a mile from the highway. All
7 the processing is going to be done in a building and in
8 large tanks in that mill area there.

9 The evaporation ponds tailings cells which
10 are closer to the highway are low but profile facilities
11 and mostly below ground. Our lighting of the mill
12 surrounding area is generally going to be shielded
13 outdoor lighting. So hopefully we won't look like a
14 beacon in the middle of the night.

15 There are no offensive odors associated
16 with the milling or the waste disposal process.

17 And we do have loud noises inside some of
18 the mill buildings. Our workers are required to wear
19 ear protection. But on the outside the loudest noise
20 you're going to hear is that equipment backup alarm.
21 And again, that's a three-quarter of mile from the
22 highway.

23 I want to focus a little bit more on the
24 environmental control because this is what the folks
25 from the state are going to be looking at very closely

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1 over the next 12 months or so.

2 In order to protect ground or surface water
3 we have concrete secondary containment for all tanks and
4 processing areas. We have chemically resistant piping
5 with secondary containment. All of our liner systems
6 for the tailings facility and evaporation ponds have
7 multiple synthetic liners and they also have leak
8 collection and recover systems if there are leaks.

9 We have storm water controls designed so
10 that our facility is a zero discharge facility. That
11 means no surface water that comes in contact with the
12 mill processing or disposal areas will go off-site.

13 From an air quality point of view, we spray
14 water at our ore dumping platform, stockpiles and
15 hoppers. We will be spraying our tailings beaches. We
16 will be treating our roads to reduce the amount of dust
17 generated.

18 There is a truck wash so that any vehicle
19 coming onto the licensed area will be washed before
20 leaving and scanned. We will have gas scrubbers at all
21 emission points of the mill. These are generally 99
22 percent efficient device, or more.

23 And within the packing area we will have
24 automated equipment within hermetically sealed rooms.
25 We also feel it's important that we be

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1 protective of wildlife. We will have netting over our
2 evaporation ponds. We will have bird balls which are
3 floating balls on top of our tailings ponds area so
4 waterfowl will not land on these ponded areas.

5 We will have security fencing, chain link
6 topped with barbed wire around our entire facility, both
7 for security purposes and to prevent wildlife from
8 entering into the licensed area.

9 I wanted to show you this real quickly, I
10 have one slide on health and safety, but I think it's
11 important that people understand what background levels
12 you are receiving.

13 In the United States, which is the first
14 column, the average natural background levels are about
15 300 millirems per year, these come from cosmic
16 radiation, i.e., from space. They also come from
17 terrestrial radiation from the ground. We have
18 radioactive components in the ground. Also you ingest
19 radiation in the food and water that you eat and drink.
20 And you also inhale radiation and naturally occurring
21 radon and its decay products when you breathe.

22 By comparison, Colorado averages about 400
23 millirems per unit exposure rate. Leadville, because of
24 its elevation, it's even higher at 526 millirems per
25 year. Again, this is natural background radiation.

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1 We estimate our area receives about 450
2 millirems per year. By contrast, a mill worker, the
3 regulatory limit that a mill worker can receive is 5,000
4 millirems per year. But I'll guarantee you there is
5 nobody sitting there at that table that would allow us
6 to even come close to that.

7 Under state and federal regulations we have
8 to be as low as reasonably achievable on radiation
9 levels that are received by our workers, and our target
10 would be a hundred millirems per year, and we think
11 that's achievable with current technology. And it's
12 actually, I think that is consistent with what some of
13 the other mills, such as the White Mesa Mill, probably
14 are experiencing right now.

15 On the public side we have even tighter
16 limits. The public is, we have to make sure that nobody
17 in the public receives over a hundred millirems per year
18 above background. Our target for people in the general
19 public is 10 millirems per year above background.

20 To give you an idea what that amounts to,
21 that's probably like three x-rays, or maybe three
22 cross-country airlines flights.

23 We will have to post a bond for both the
24 reclamation of our facility and for long-term main
25 maintenance of our facility. And as part of our

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1 material license application we have provided detailed
2 plans on decommissioning the mill, including the cover
3 for the tailings where all the mill components will end
4 up at the time of closure.

5 The bond amount is basically based on a
6 worse case scenario and is revised on a periodic basis
7 to reflect current conditions and plans. And this is
8 not something that we determine, the state will actually
9 look at our estimate and determine what the bond will
10 be.

11 We feel that the project will provide many
12 economic benefits, including creating up to 85 new jobs.
13 Eighty percent of the work force we expect to come from
14 the local population. Wages will average from 40 to
15 75,000 per year plus benefits.

16 It will also support over 200 mining and
17 trucking jobs in the area and generate tax revenues for
18 public services infrastructure.

19 And let's not forget, we will be producing
20 uranium and vanadium needed for power generation and
21 manufacturing here in this country.

22 I'd like to get into this slide, Why
23 Uranium. Basically, the United States consumes 60
24 million pounds per year of uranium, primarily for power
25 generation, while we only produce 5 million pounds per

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1 year.

2 Twenty percent of the United States'
3 electricity today comes from 104 nuclear power plants in
4 the country. By the way, we produce more nuclear power
5 in this country than any other country in the world. I
6 know a lot of you have heard about that Japan or France
7 produces a larger percentage of their energy from
8 nuclear power, but we actually produce more than anybody
9 and we have the most efficient and safest nuclear power
10 plants in the world.

11 Nuclear energy is domestically abundant,
12 it's clean. It also does not produce carbon emissions.
13 It's safe, it's inexpensive and it's currently viable.

14 I guess we will send it back to the Judge.
15 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you,
16 Frank.

17 We're now at the most important part of the
18 meeting, frankly, and that's the public comments, for
19 you folks to do that.

20 Those of you that have signed up to speak,
21 you received a speaker protocol, and it's present at the
22 podium as well, everybody has that.

23 We're going to call the speakers out in
24 groups of five, and you can come on down to the staging
25 area right before the podium, front and center stage

21

1 here. And we will call out those names in just a
2 moment.

3 I'll simply remind you of the speaker
4 protocol. So that everybody will be able to have their
5 say, speakers will be given three minutes to make their
6 presentation.

7 And please, do not applaud or hiss or boo,
8 it goes to say. First of all, the Court Reporter has to
9 take everything down and if there's interruption by
10 applause, and those things, it's not going to be
11 possible. We need to have a verbatim record of this.

12 I also would remind you that there is a
13 comment box in the back by the door coming in and you
14 can fill out comment cards as you like, even while the
15 meeting is going on, and drop those in the comment box.
16 Those are going to be picked up by the folks from the
17 Department of Health at the conclusion of the meeting.

18 And in a while we'll have a break. Mr.
19 Rusk, as good as he is, is going to need to have a
20 finger break here for about 15 minutes or so as we get a
21 little bit further in.

22 Also Deputy Thompson is here, and I asked
23 him to get some weather reports. I know some folks have
24 a ways to travel here, and I haven't been outside for a
25 while, but I assume it's still snowing. So we'll try

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1 and give you an update on that as well at the
2 intermission.

3 With that, we're going to call out five
4 names. And these are totally at random by my assistant
5 Ms. Wolford, and she has given me these names strictly
6 at random. I'll read them off, and if I mispronounce
7 your name, feel free to correct that when you speak. So
8 these are the first five speakers, please come down to
9 the staging area. Tammy Sutherland. Lee Sutherland.
10 Johnie Harris. Joyce Shaffer. Todd Zunich. So if you
11 folks will work your way on down, and you can speak in
12 the order in which your name was called.

13 And as you speak, please state your name,
14 the Court Reporter needs to get your name down. If you
15 would state your name and go ahead and begin. And you
16 will be given a heads-up when there's thirty seconds
17 remaining on your time.

18 All right, thank you.

19 And you might want to talk right into the
20 microphone.

21 TAMMY SUTHERLAND: Tammy Sutherland.
22 This is a very personal issue for me, I've have been
23 around here for a long time and left and come back, had
24 my dad working in the industry, grandfather worked in
25 the industry, and also my husband.

23

1 And I've had some relatives who have been
2 negatively affected with their health because of the
3 industry. So I pretty much know both sides, and studied
4 both sides. And if anyone was going to be able to speak
5 out against this issue it would be me because I have
6 been so negatively affected by it, if I didn't know most
7 of the stuff that is coming up as far as the progress
8 that has been made in the industry.

9 When my dad was in the mine, there was
10 just, it was not a good situation. Air, we heard
11 stories about they pulled their T-shirts up around their
12 noses to keep the dust out. It was bad. There was no
13 regulation, well, very little regulation. Well, we have
14 regulations now. Some people would almost think it's
15 over-regulated, but we've gladly accepted the
16 regulations because it was a good thing.

17 When we hear opposition to this issue, they
18 talk about the past. They talk about the past of how
19 the mills and mines did so poorly, people were dying,
20 and how horrible it was. And, yes, it was horrible.
21 There were some bad things that happened. But that was
22 in the past.

23 We made progress learning from the past,
24 doing something positive about that and going into the
25 future and making a better tomorrow.

24

1 We have the natural resources here. We
2 have the people who know the industry inside and out.
3 They know how it was in the past and they've worked
4 every day, every moment trying to make it better.

5 We've talked to people who are involved
6 with this mill, and we're so excited because they're
7 willing to put out the money and the energy and the
8 technology to put in a great mill so that we don't have
9 to relive life in the past.

10 And the United States is built on making
11 things better and having the best medical programs and
12 space programs and we're ready to step into that
13 progress with this mill that Energy Fuels is wanting to
14 put in.

15 And I just ask that you really look at the
16 industry. We have a trucking industry to support it.
17 We have the heavy equipment industry to support it.
18 We're ready to step into the future and make it a good
19 one. We need to be able to grow, not at the expense of
20 our miners and millers, we're not willing to do that.
21 But we have everything we need to make this successful,
22 and we're ready for it, and this area deserves it.
23 We've been affected by the economy for so many years.
24 Please say yes to the mill.

25 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

25

1 No applause, please. Try to keep the applause down so
2 we can keep on going, that would be appreciated.

3 LEE SUTHERLAND: My name is Lee
4 Sutherland, I've lived here in Colorado all my life,
5 been around the uranium business all life. We've got a
6 lot of nuclear power plants in the country already. The
7 Williams, we're paying them to haul our materials, we
8 can just supply it ourselves and give more people jobs
9 here. And nuclear power is the only thing we got, it's
10 clean and it's cheap and we got it right here. There's
11 no reason for us not to be mining it right here and
12 supporting our country instead of sending the money into
13 foreign countries.

14 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

15 Next.

16 JOHNIE HARRIS: My name is Johnie
17 Harris and I've been associated with mining for about 37
18 years. I'm a former town councilman for Nucla. And
19 this mill will be a boom to not only Nucla and Naturita,
20 but Norwood, Dove Creek, Egnar, La Sal, Moab. Those
21 people will drive 50, 60 miles one way to come work in
22 the mill or mine. And I think we have got the mines,
23 we've got the know-how, we've got the people here.
24 They've got a mill that's going to be the state of the
25 art. You know, I don't see what the problem is.

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1 The uranium, it -- they have a new way to
2 take care of the fuel loss, so I think that's coming up
3 in the near future. So I --you know, the problem with
4 fuel loss is going to be a minor problem in a few years.
5 And that's biggest problem I've heard of it.

6 In the Nucla/Naturita area, there's nothing
7 here. Our kids have to leave this area if they want to
8 get a job. And it's fine if you live in Telluride, or
9 you live in Montrose, or even Grand Junction or Moab, it
10 seems like that's a big enough area for kids to stick
11 around and have a job. Around here there's no jobs.
12 And I think this mill is a good deal for this area. I
13 think it will help the area tremendously. You know, not
14 just the mill, it will be the mine. And I would imagine
15 there is going to be more people hired in the mine than
16 what they estimated.

17 Also every dollar spent here is going to
18 boomerang into 5 to \$7 in this area. And I think the
19 towns of Nucla and Naturita need it for their
20 infrastructure. Their infrastructure is wearing out,
21 the schools are wearing out. They need the investment
22 in here for those people.

23 That's all I have to say, thank you.

24 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
25 Well, I'm going to call out the names of the next five

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1 folks and you can get ready to come on down. Chris
2 Daniels. Michael Moore. Cindy Carothers. Paula Brown.
3 Chuck Beeham.

4 Go ahead, next speaker.

5 JOYCE SHAFFER: My name is Joyce
6 Shaffer and I am from this area. Currently I live in
7 Loma, which is near Grand Junction, Colorado. I used to
8 work for Union Carbide, I was there until the mill
9 closed in '84. Our mill closed, not because we did not
10 meet the state recommendation, our mill closed because
11 of outside uranium that was brought in. By the deal
12 that was signed by our government to undermine the jobs
13 of the people that pay the taxes that support this
14 government. There are also people bent on changing the
15 views of this government that affect the lives of those
16 of us here tonight. We need jobs. When you get right
17 down to the nitty-gritty, we need jobs. These people
18 are good people. They know that when Union Carbide's
19 mills and mines were running that we did everything we
20 could to keep employees safe. I was married to the
21 safety director for Union Carbide for twenty years. I
22 know the safety that went into it. We had a wonderful
23 record for man hours worked without an accident.

24 We did progress, as time went on the
25 technology was better and we understood what we were

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1 dealing with. We had better ventilation in the mines.
2 We wore radon badges. I walked through the mill and
3 gathered information from each department of uranium and
4 vanadium processing to calculate.

5 There are a lot of people that don't
6 understand uranium. I don't like skydiving. I've never
7 tried it. I don't want to try it. I don't understand
8 it. It scares me to death. But I'm not scared of
9 uranium. The people here need a job. They understand
10 that we have state and government regulations that help
11 keep us safe. And they're willing to work hard for the
12 job. And we are willing to trust those who have our
13 safety at heart and our best interest at heart and you
14 will do a good job. And we ask that you do consider
15 this for the West End of Colorado.

16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
18 speaker.

19 TODD ZUNICH: My name is Todd Zunich,
20 I've lived here my whole life, 44 years, and I have been
21 around this business, some of my relatives passed away
22 from it. And we've heard about all of this, we seen all
23 the evidence that's been brought to us. And this is
24 going to be a safe industry. And I don't see how that a
25 minority of the environmental people can dictate and

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1 influence the decision that's being brought upon this
2 country right now.

3 The bureaucratic layers that they have to
4 go through to get a permit and stuff is coming to the
5 point where we just handle it as a nation. But the
6 majority of the people are really wanting to become
7 energy independent. And to become energy independent
8 we're going to have to get away from this heavy
9 regulated stuff and we need to get into reality here.

10 The uranium industry will help this
11 community in a lot of ways. And I'd like to see, you
12 know, the permitting process, even though it's estimated
13 it will take many years, to go ahead and make a decision
14 on this. With that said, I think the West End is ready
15 for a nuclear renaissance.

16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
18 speaker.

19 CHRIS DANIELS: My name is Chris
20 Daniels, and I'm here on behalf of the Nucla/Naturita
21 area Chamber of Commerce. Last August and September the
22 Chamber conducted a survey of consumers, both online and
23 a paper survey form that were available at local
24 businesses for purposes of getting some viable feedback
25 from the residents and from those who visit this area.

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1 One of the questions on the survey was regarding the
2 proposed Pinon Ridge Mill. Several other questions had
3 responses concerning the mill and these were highlighted
4 in the compilation.
5 Regarding the one directly in support for
6 it. In fact, 71.6 percent of those responded were
7 positively yes. Nine percent responded, yes, I think
8 so. Nine more percent said it could go either way.
9 There were no responses to probably not. Six point
10 seven percent responded absolutely not. And only one
11 person had not decided.
12 While we're not claiming that this is a
13 scientific survey, we do feel it is a fair
14 representation of the desires of these communities as a
15 whole and shows a great deal of local support for the
16 mill. We hope you will take this support under
17 consideration in reaching your determination.
18 On a personal note, I fully support the
19 Pinon Ridge Mill. I believe the current regulations
20 will remove the concerns from decades ago and will
21 ensure that Energy Fuels will be a safe and much needed
22 corporate neighbor to those of us who choose to live
23 here.
24 Thank you for your time.
25 I have copies of these if you would like

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1 them.
2 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
3 speaker.
4 CINDY CAROTHERS: My name is Cindy
5 Carothers, I live in Nulca, Colorado. My family has
6 worked and raised a family in this area since it was
7 Union Carbide days. We have had family that have passed
8 from working in the mills and mining. No regrets of
9 ever doing it again. I graduated from Nucla High School
10 here, so did my aunts and uncles. We really need this
11 mill. I would like to be able to live here and raise my
12 kids here and maybe raise my grandkids here. Please
13 approve this mill, we need it.
14 Thank you.
15 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
16 speaker. Before you speak, let me call the names of the
17 next five speakers. Mark Templeton. Hank Williams.
18 Doris VanNess. Mike Childress. Tony Lobato.
19 Go ahead.
20 PAULA BROWN: My name is Paula Brown,
21 I'm the president of the West End Public Schools Board
22 of Education. The West End Public Schools reached its
23 peak enrollment in 1960-61 with 1342 students. At this
24 time the District had five campuses: Three elementary
25 schools; one in Nucla, Paradox and Uravan; one junior

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1 high school in Naturita and one high school here in
2 Nucla.
3 Our current student enrollment as of
4 yesterday we counted 358 students. We currently have
5 three campuses, one is the Paradox Valley Charter
6 School, pre-k through 8; the Naturita Elementary School,
7 pre-k through 6 and the Nucla Jr./Sr. High School, 7
8 through 12th grade.
9 The percentage of economically
10 disadvantaged families who qualify for the free lunch
11 program has increased to 57 percent this year. It is
12 estimated this percentage is lower than the actual
13 number in that some families are unwilling to apply due
14 to pride or there's families whose students don't use
15 the school lunch program. Many households who did not
16 qualify for this program in the past do at this time due
17 to loss of employment.
18 The importance of this information is that
19 it ties directly to the District's budget. The majority
20 of the District's income comes from property tax, which
21 is collected here locally. The more students, the more
22 property owners and more vehicles registered, the more
23 money comes into the District's budget.
24 There is one catch to it, each time the
25 assessed value increases, the state takes the same

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1 amount of increase away. The number of students and
2 revenues directly impact the District's number of
3 teaching staff and course offerings. Our course
4 offerings are extremely limited with a real need for
5 vocational education and training.
6 The current bonding capacity is \$8.2
7 million and through our recent and continued efforts to
8 improve the District's aging buildings, 8.2 million
9 doesn't go far when the buildings are in excess of 50
10 years old.
11 Recent building assessments performed by
12 Dwight and Associates to update the District's master
13 plan to meet its current immediate needs is estimated at
14 7.5 million. This would leave the Naturita Elementary
15 School with two older modular buildings which are
16 currently being used as classrooms, and to remove those
17 modulars and new construction to replace them would
18 increase that estimate to 10 million. These facilities
19 are out of our reach with K through 12 facilities
20 totalling 20 million to accommodate students in our
21 current enrollment.
22 In closing, the possibility of getting
23 additional funds to this District would offer new
24 enhanced educational opportunities for our students
25 allowing the purchase of new technology and opening

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1 doors for career choices. The Board of Education is
2 optimistic and supportive of the proposed Pinon Ridge
3 Mill. We feel it opens endless possibilities for this
4 District and community to increase student enrollment
5 and have local stable taxes. We encourage the approval
6 of the Energy Fuels application for Pinon Ridge.
7 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
8 speaker.
9 CHUCK BEEHAM: My name is Chuck
10 Beeham, and I am the director of GJRESULTS.COM, we are
11 the Grand Junction Tea Party people and we are here in
12 support of the area residents and to add our voice of
13 303,500 members in our data base, we urge you to allow
14 the Pinon Ridge Mill to go forward. The people need
15 jobs. They need clean, abundant economical energy to
16 fuel our country's recovery. This is an absolute
17 necessity. Right now we are in a position that if we
18 don't do something, we're going to be in a lot of
19 trouble. It's important to the people. We need the
20 energy from our home domestic soil. And we need to end
21 our dependence on foreign energy. The era of the
22 obstructionist, special interest agenda has ended.
23 There is a renaissance of the will of the people
24 sweeping this nation.
25 I would like to thank you for the

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1 opportunity to allow us to make that goal. We are
2 strong, we are many and our voices will be heard.
3 Thank you.
4 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
5 Next speaker. And folks, if you could speak directly
6 into the microphone, that way the people in the back can
7 hear a lot better.
8 Next speaker.
9 MARK TEMPLETON: My name is Mark
10 Templeton and I live in Nucla. I've been in this
11 country for a long time. I've worked in the mills and I
12 was a nuclear power plant operator. I think the
13 paranoia that exists about nuclear power is that people
14 simply don't understand its process and radiation
15 concern. I think it's a bridge to the future for this
16 county. We need something that will get us there over a
17 period of time, and I think nuclear power is the obvious
18 answer. We can't build dams any more, they won't let us
19 build dams, so hydropower is kind of out. There's solar
20 power, but I don't think it will get us there, we need
21 nuclear power as the bridge. This is well regulated and
22 we trust you guys to do that and make sure that
23 everybody is safe here.
24 Thank you.
25 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next

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1 speaker.
2 MICHAEL MOORE: My name is Michael
3 Moore. And I've lived here for 50 years, in fact, I
4 started mining in 1960. I also have a mining company,
5 I'm president of a mining company. Also I'm vice
6 president of the Western Small Miners Association which
7 was started in the latter part of 1980. And at that
8 time when we started this we had VCA, Climax Uranium,
9 Union Carbide, Tell Corporation, Energy Fuels.
10 And the area -- there have been a lot of
11 people that said why don't we ship all of this to
12 Dennison. Well, to begin with, it's an old mill. And
13 an old mill is the same as a car, you don't do something
14 to it just to see if it wears out, you won't get the
15 recovery. So that's why we would like to have a new
16 mill in this area other than for jobs, also. And in
17 this area, in the Four Corners there is probably 20 to
18 25 million pounds of uranium and probably five times
19 that in vanadium.
20 So we would like to see the mill in this
21 area to provide jobs. It will also help the schools,
22 and not only the schools but help the whole area. And
23 the thing we don't want to do is become a kind of leach
24 on the county and asking them every time we turn around
25 for help. We have the resources in this, the West End

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1 of this county, it's a small end of the county, but we
2 have the resources, we have uranium, we have coal, we
3 have a power plant, but everybody can't work at the coal
4 plant or the power company. So what we want to do is we
5 want to be self-sufficient. The Western Small Miner's
6 Association, we are for this mill.
7 Thank you.
8 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
9 speaker.
10 HANK WILLIAMS: Hank Williams, I'm a
11 local resident in Norwood, I have a contractor business,
12 Williams Construction. My goodness, this is exciting to
13 have this kind of opportunity for a community. We live
14 in very, like Mike said, we live in a very mineral rich
15 area of the world. This mill will give us some
16 opportunity to take advantage of the uranium. There's
17 mines next door that are permitted and they're waiting
18 to fire up and operate. We're making progress, folks.
19 This is such an exciting thing, not only for us as local
20 residents, but for the entire U.S. What better way can
21 we help the U.S. to energy independence than mining our
22 own uranium and building new plants.
23 You know, the more I, the more I
24 learn about the nuclear energy, my goodness, it's the
25 greatest thing out there. Hats off to the folks with

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1 Energy Fuels for taking that step, and they took on a
2 monster and began the process. And, you know, I think
3 it's obviously been probably more of a fight than what
4 they expected it to be. It's a real positive thing.
5 You know, they tell me it's been 25 years
6 since there has been a mill built in the United States.
7 Talk about progress. The jobs it will bring to this
8 area is a great opportunity for all of us whether we
9 work in the mill or contracted, or whatever, the mine,
10 whatever it amounts to. And I just want to thank you
11 that you for the opportunity to speak here with all the
12 folks that are with the hearing.
13 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
14 Next speaker.
15 DORIS VANNESS: My name is Doris
16 VanNess, I'm the local representative for the Western
17 Colorado WRETAC Association, which is the Western
18 Regional EMS Council.
19 How Energy Fuels and the bill affects the
20 emergency medical services in the West End of Montrose
21 County is speculation at this time. At this point
22 nobody really knows what the response will be, but I
23 understand that we have about 18 months to get our act
24 together and to figure out how it will. I don't think
25 that will be hard. The estimated extra calls that will

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1 come in the next two years, once it gets permitted, is
2 approximately 100 more emergency calls, and that
3 includes; fire, ambulance and police. The
4 responsibilities of the local agencies is to provide 911
5 assistance to the people living in this area. When
6 somebody picks up the phone and dials 911, they expect
7 to have the police, fire or ambulance in a matter of
8 minutes. With the increase of more workers and family
9 members in the area, it will put an increased burden on
10 the area's already strained services. We also have to
11 remember that the calls for services will decline after
12 a period after people finally move on, but I think it
13 will stabilize out.
14 Energy Fuels has stated that they would not
15 only allow but they would encourage all of their 85
16 employees to volunteer for the local fire and EMS
17 services. They will also have full time EMTs and
18 firemen on staff at all times. All the volunteers have
19 to have the exact same license as paid services. They
20 have to keep up with all training and keep up with CE.
21 They have to keep all of their equipment and gear
22 upgraded as well.
23 It takes a very special person to volunteer
24 for a local volunteer service. And we are very
25 fortunate in that we have several of them in this

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1 community.
2 Government agencies are slow to react to
3 changes within the service area. According to the
4 conversation with Montrose County, sufficient extra tax
5 base from the mill, it could take as long as two years
6 for the process to be effective. If we submit for
7 additional mill levies, that also could take up to two
8 years. In the meantime, where will the funds come from
9 to support the financial increases that will incur on
10 the emergency services. I don't think this is a real
11 problem because with the mill having benefits for their
12 services, they are -- for that, we will get the extra
13 income from the service money.
14 At this time all of our patients go through
15 Basin Clinic.
16 Am I out of time? I'm sorry.
17 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: If you
18 finish up quickly, that will be fine.
19 DORIS VANNESS: All of our patients
20 are people that go through the Basin Clinic in this
21 area.
22 I have a quote from Mary Schnider that she
23 asked me to read on behalf of Montrose Memorial
24 Hospital, and I quote, the clinic currently has around
25 5500 visits per year with approximately 1,000 of those

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1 visits being urgent care. To extend the number of
2 visits to accommodate the potential population growth
3 would require the Basin Clinic to expand their space.
4 This would cost approximately 3,000 -- or 3,000,000 in
5 additional dollars, equipment and personnel. Montrose
6 Memorial, we will upgrade that clinic to a Level 5
7 trauma center and we will do this whether the mill comes
8 in or not. End quote.
9 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
10 Next speaker. And while the next speaker is coming,
11 these are the next five speakers; Dianna Coram, Dan
12 Burns, Don Coram, Doyleene Garvey, and Richard Craig.
13 Go ahead.
14 MIKE CHILDRESS: I'm Mike Childress.
15 First of all, we would like to thank you guys for taking
16 the time and energy to come and hold this hearing this
17 evening.
18 My wife and I have lived in Nucla and
19 Naturita for 12 years. We own property, have a business
20 and are active in the community. I'm the pastor of a
21 local church. We have a vested interested in this
22 community. We and many others around here are offended
23 by the implication that we are so ignorant that we do
24 not understand the possible effects of radiation,
25 milling and mining. Many of us are also offended that

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1 opponents of the mill treat us as if we are trying to
2 destroy the world and our friend and family in the
3 bargain. This is not just about jobs at any cost.
4 Mining and milling have been going on in this area for
5 more than 50 years. It is not a waste land.
6 I'm in favor of exploring and using any and
7 all types of energy, but it has to make sense. The new
8 solar array that has been put to use on the eastern
9 slope produces 1.2 kilowatts of electricity and employs
10 approximately six acres. To match the output of our
11 little 100 kilowatt plant over the hill that uses 60
12 acres would require 500 acres. In 2008 nuclear power
13 plants generated just under 809 billion kilowatts, less
14 than 20 percent of this country's electricity. It would
15 require 16 million acres of solar array to create 800
16 billion kilowatts. That could cover Montrose County
17 eleven times.
18 Spain, arguably the world leader in
19 sustainable energy innovation is losing two jobs for
20 each green job that is created. I do not believe that
21 either of those directions is where we want to go.
22 There is no one energy answer.
23 Most of us are in favor of balanced
24 progress. Everything I have seen leads me to believe
25 that the Pinon Ridge Mill is a good part of that

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1 balance.
2 Thank you.
3 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
4 speaker.
5 TONY LOBATO: Good evening, my name
6 is Tony Lobato. Thank you for coming to Nucla tonight.
7 I know that you are charged with the environmental
8 safety health aspects to the workers and the general
9 public. But as part of your charge and your
10 decision-making, health and welfare go hand and hand,
11 along with welfare, is why everybody is talking about
12 the economic pluses that we get from this industry.
13 I've lived in the area for 65 years and
14 worked in the industry most of my life. I understand
15 uranium, just like most of my friends over here do.
16 Your decisions will affect us greatly, and hopefully on
17 the positive side.
18 The cultural heritage parts of what you
19 will give back to us are very important. A community
20 needs a sense of value and self-worth, and our heritage
21 is mining. Our culture is mining, mining and milling.
22 That's who we are and that's what we do. Don't take
23 that away from us.
24 Thank you.
25 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

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1 Next speaker.
2 DIANNA CORAM: My name is Dianna
3 Coram, Montrose. I'll read you a letter from our
4 representative, State Representative, Scott Tipton, who
5 is in session in Denver.
6 To Whom It May Concern:
7 I am writing to express my support for the
8 proposed uranium mill on the West End of Montrose
9 County. I attended the initial hearing on the proposed
10 mill in Nucla. After listening to the testimony and
11 examining the proposal, I believe that environmental and
12 public safety concerns have been properly addressed.
13 For me, this was a predominate issue. As a State
14 Representative, and you, as one of the authorizing
15 governmental entities, public and environmental safety
16 must be a primary, as they are hand in glove regarding
17 potential impact. The advances in technology,
18 redundancy in safety measures and the testimony of life
19 there, people who want to protect themselves, their
20 families, their way of life, are compelling factors.
21 We cannot fail to recognize, once safety
22 and environmental factors are addressed, that the
23 economic benefit will be significant. I must note that
24 when I say economic benefit, I'm referring to helping
25 hard working families when it comes to jobs and making

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1 ends meet.
2 I fully understand the difficulty of
3 dealing with this issue. While I understand and respect
4 differing opinions, we must also recognize that
5 significant advancements in technology, expanded
6 regulatory oversight, safety redundancies in the
7 proposal and community commitment to protecting our land
8 and water can, and should, lend themselves to
9 establishing a safe and beneficial project.
10 Thank you.
11 Sincerely, Scott Tipton, State
12 Representative, House District 58.
13 Thank you.
14 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Before the
15 next speaker comes up, Mr. White would mind getting a
16 hold of Deputy Thompson and see if he could go ahead and
17 get a road report for us. And just come into the room
18 and bring it up so we know it's available. Thank you.
19 Next speaker.
20 DAN BURNS: My name is Dan Burns, I'm
21 here tonight as an active member and representing the
22 Western Small Miners Association. I've heard numbers
23 thrown out about the existing reserve in the Uravan
24 Mineral Belt being 25,000 pounds of uranium. The
25 research that I have done myself has revealed to me that

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1 there is in excess a hundred million pounds of uranium
2 in the Uravan Mineral Belt still existing.

3 People that are opposed to drilling, mining
4 and milling will lead you to believe that we do things
5 the way they did 30 to 50 years ago. That's not the
6 case. We've learned a lot of things that don't work.
7 We have environmental laws, we've got engineering
8 controls.

9 One of the things that's really been talked
10 about a lot is the potential for wind blown
11 contamination. It's my understanding that there will be
12 air monitoring stations surrounding this mill that run
13 full-time. I believe that, and you can tell me if I'm
14 wrong, but I believe that when airborne radioactive
15 particulates start leaving that site, you folks are
16 going to shut that mill down. I think that's part of
17 your job, to protect the health and welfare of the
18 public.

19 There's a lot of numbers thrown out on
20 speculation rather than on science. I've heard people
21 from clear over in Telluride talk about particulate
22 wind-blown contamination clear over to Paradox and
23 Bedrock. I went and sat down with Curtis Swift, who is
24 a Tri-River Extension agent in Grand Junction and I
25 talked to him about the potential of plant uptake, and

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1 in totalage, if you will, in organic gardens.

2 Curtis did some research and got back to me
3 and he told me that soil conditions that are pH of five
4 or less, there's a fairly rapid uptake of uranium in
5 those plants in high uranium content soil. Mill
6 tailings are not that. Mill tailings have 96 percent,
7 approximately, of the uranium taken out. Our soils, he
8 said at 6 pH, there's hardly any uptake in a plant. Our
9 soils in Western Colorado run between 7 and 9, and so
10 the potential for uptake in plants is negligible, if
11 any.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

13 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

14 Next speaker.

15 DON CORAM: My name is Don Coram, I
16 represent myself and I'm the director of the Western
17 Small Miners Association, and I'm here to talk about
18 jobs.

19 Yesterday morning at 8 o'clock in Colorado
20 300 people were asked to come into the office and were
21 notified they did not have a job. This morning at 8
22 o'clock the very same thing happened. Tomorrow morning
23 it will happen again. It has happened every day for the
24 last year.

25 Montrose County is not immune from this.

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1 Records indicate about 8.2 percent unemployment in
2 Montrose County. I think it's probably higher than
3 that, if you take into consideration a lot of the people
4 in this region are self-employed and not qualified to
5 draw benefits, or they have been unemployed long enough
6 that they no longer have benefits.

7 We have done extensive research at Western
8 Small Mining Association, we have projected with 15
9 mines, 85 mill workers will require about 282 mine
10 personnel, 101 development personnel, 44 transportation
11 personnel, 63 professionals, 15 management personnel,
12 service administrator. Direct jobs up to 623, indirect
13 jobs in the service industry of 756, for around 1392
14 jobs bringing in \$50 million to this economy. Fifty
15 million dollars would be marvelous for this community.
16 It would be marvelous for any community in Colorado
17 right now.

18 Grand Junction went from the number one
19 place in the United States to get a job just a little
20 over a year ago, to number 1 for losing the most jobs.
21 We need jobs in this area. We cannot sustain our area
22 economy without jobs. This is a good project. The
23 people here want it, they need it, they have the
24 ability. We have the resources and we have everything
25 we need right here to do it.

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1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

3 Next speaker. And while you're coming up let me
4 announce the names of the next five speakers; Glen
5 Davis, Jim Black, Robert Olvera, Tom Cavanaugh, and
6 Dianna Reams.

7 MR. WHITE: The report from the
8 Montrose County dispatch is that the road to Grand
9 Junction is icy in spots and snowing. Towards Montrose
10 over Dallas Divide, icy in spots. Up to Telluride, icy
11 in spots, snowing and snow packed. The route to Cortez
12 is blowing snow, icy in spots and slushy. Also snowing
13 towards La Sal.

14 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

15 Next speaker.

16 DOYLENE GARVEY: My name is Doylene
17 Garvey. I work and have been a member of the local
18 Chamber of Commerce for the past 25 years. My husband
19 and I run a local guide and outfitters business, Garvey
20 Brothers Wilderness Outfitters.

21 I want you to look around and notice all of
22 those who have stickers. These people are survivors.
23 All of us who live here are survivors. We're going to
24 stay. We're trying to do the best we can. What we
25 want, we want our kids to come home. We want our

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1 friends to come back. We want our services back. We
2 have very few services left.

3 I want to thank you so much for coming. I
4 know that it's a long travel. It's a beautiful ride, I
5 don't know if you got to enjoy it in the daylight. And
6 if you have never been here, I hope you come back,
7 because we have really good people here and people with
8 a lot of heart, and people with a lot of guts that will
9 stay and continue living here. So I hope you do take
10 that opportunity. And if you need a tour guide, I'd be
11 very happy to do that for you.

12 I want to talk to you about tourism. Many
13 of the opponents of the mill say we should build our
14 economy around tourism and agricultural. In fact, they
15 have a study which concludes, uranium will ruin the
16 potential for our area. As a resident of the area and a
17 member of the Chamber of Commerce and an owner of a
18 business that works in the local tourism, I am firmly in
19 disagreement with this conclusion.

20 First, most of the tourist jobs are low
21 paying and seasonal, there's no way to build an economy
22 around that.

23 Second, we must remember that this interest
24 group is an environmentalist group. These groups all
25 work together to repeat and reinforce their anti-nuclear

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1 messages. This way environmental groups from Telluride
2 can say we encourage tourism here in the West End and
3 then they can give you a study prepared by their friends
4 to back it up.

5 Well, in my opinion, we should have a
6 diverse economy based on both, natural resources and
7 tourism. It is very clear to me, and most of my
8 members, that the need for tourism does exist. If our
9 local uranium industry comes, we will have a few mines
10 and a couple of mills. These modifications will be
11 subject to state and federal regulations. The vast
12 majority of the land will be preserved for biking,
13 hunting, rock climbing, sightseeing and all of the other
14 things tourists like to do.

15 Third, the local economy is so bad we have
16 very few local services. In the Nucla/Naturita we have
17 one motel, one inn, we have one restaurant, no bar, and
18 a couple of small grocery stores and a couple liquor
19 stores. There is a bed and breakfast in Paradox, which
20 is several miles from the mill. The nearest resort is
21 about an hour away in Gateway, it is beautiful, but it
22 is a lot of money. Right now we have a little
23 development and little tourism.

24 In my opinion, we need to have enough
25 economic input to support local restaurants, shops and

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1 other services during these times -- during times when
2 tourism doesn't exist in our area. This means having a
3 diverse economy that includes uranium.

4 Lastly, this will only happen if these
5 people aren't successful in spreading baseless fears
6 about uranium and radiation.

7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
9 Next speaker.

10 RICHARD CRAIG: Hi. My name is
11 Richard Craig, Nucla, I'm a member of the town council
12 in Nucla. The town board, our council, totally supports
13 the Pinon Ridge Mill, and there's a lot of reasons
14 behind it and everybody has already said it, so that
15 made my speech short.

16 You know, we've been trying get grants for
17 better water lines. Well, that's out of the question,
18 the state's got the money, we don't. But with the mill
19 coming in it's going to help our town, Naturita and
20 everybody else. And it's also going to mean that we'll
21 get some of these younger kids back, which is what we
22 need. And it's going to help out with the fire
23 department and emergency services because we've got
24 these young guys to go up there and do it. You know, a
25 lot of us guys are getting old.

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1 So to me the whole thing is a win/win
2 situation for us. And I just, you know, I just think
3 the mill ought to be really supported. And my intention
4 about it, my two favorite words, common sense and
5 logical thinking.

6 Thank you.

7 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
8 Glen Davis is the next speaker.

9 GLEN DAVIS: My name is Glen Davis
10 and serve on the executive committee of the Montrose
11 Economic Development Corporation. I'm hear tonight to
12 provide information to you regarding the economic impact
13 of the proposed mill project.

14 The Mission of the MEDC is to strengthen
15 Montrose County's economic base and increase the
16 standard of living for all of its residents through the
17 retention, expansion, attraction and development of
18 primary jobs and capital investments. This Mission
19 includes the promotion of work force enhancement,
20 agricultural advancement and other business development
21 that provide economic diversification and stabilization.

22 MEDC would like to address the economic
23 benefit of the jobs that are anticipated in the proposed
24 Pinon Ridge Uranium Mill Project.

25 I need to make it clear that the board of

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1 directors of the MEDC has not taken a stand for or
2 against the mill. They trust in the due process that
3 will take place in order to address the environmental
4 elements of the mill. We do, however, support the
5 creation of jobs and that does include jobs in the
6 mining industry.

7 If you look at the historical population
8 growth chart of Montrose County provided by the
9 Department of Local Affairs, you will see that over the
10 past 50 years, while Montrose County has increased in
11 overall population by 220 percent, the towns of Nucla,
12 has decreased 17 percent, and Naturita, 30 percent.

13 The absence of industry and primary jobs
14 truly has a direct effect on a community's ability to
15 grow and thrive.

16 There are two elements to the proposed
17 Pinon Ridge Mill. The mill itself is projected to
18 create 85 new jobs with an average salary of \$45,000.
19 The indirect effect of these 85 jobs would be an
20 additional 105 jobs, for a total job impact of 190 and
21 direct earning of \$6,447,420 annually.

22 The second element of the proposed mill
23 would be the jobs created within the mining industry
24 that are necessary to mine the uranium for the mill.
25 This would add an additional 538 direct jobs with 664

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1 indirect jobs. These 1202 jobs would create \$43,314,688
2 in annual payroll to citizens of Montrose County
3 annually.

4 The combined total of these at build out
5 would bring an estimated \$49,672,108 to Montrose County
6 in the way of annual income.

7 The Bureau of Economic Analysis RIMS II
8 multiplier has been used for these calculations provided
9 by Western Small Miners Association. This formula is
10 used by the state of Colorado in calculating the impact
11 of jobs based on industry. The attached chart that I've
12 handed you will break down the economic impact to
13 different sectors of our economy in our region.

14 You will see that all businesses and
15 professional sectors will experience economical gain
16 with the approval of the mill.

17 I would like to thank the panel, and I'd
18 like to thank these people for their wonderful
19 hospitality.

20 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
21 Next speaker.

22 JIM BLACK: My name is Jim Black and
23 I'm a landowner and resident of Montrose County. I'm a
24 geologist and I have a decade, I guess, of experience in
25 exploration here. I also worked for the better part of

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1 a year for the Western Valley Mill as a filter operator.
2 So I've got some background in what the health effects
3 might be of working in a uranium mill.

4 So my purpose here today is to present
5 anecdotal accounts of draconian health effects of
6 working in uranium mills that were presented at the last
7 County hearing by a physician and attorney from Grand
8 Junction. And I want to do that by submitting into the
9 hearing record a copy of an epidemiological survey that
10 was conducted by Pinkerton, Bloom, Hein and Ward back in
11 2003. These gentleman are fact finders for NIOSH, the
12 National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety,
13 which is a subdivision of the U.S. Department of Health
14 and Human Services.

15 This study examined the cause of mortality
16 of approximately 1500 millers who were employed for at
17 least one year after January, 1940 in one of the seven
18 uranium mills on the Colorado Plateau.

19 They examined these mortality statistics
20 about those exact population from 1940 to 1998. And to
21 cut to the chase, the study results observed that there
22 was no correlation between the incidents and these
23 causes of death and the duration of employment in
24 uranium mills, and therefore, it was likely there was
25 some other reason other than working in a mill that may

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1 have be a reason for the increase of the death rates
2 observed. And the summary conclusion of the report was
3 that the report was unable to self-conclude that these
4 deaths resulted from working in uranium mills.

5 So that's all my testimony and I ask that
6 report and it's summary be included in the hearing.

7 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: If you have
8 that with you, you can bring it up. Thank you.

9 Mr. White, if you get a chance can you get
10 us an update.

11 Next speaker, please.

12 ROBERT OLVERA: Greetings, my name is
13 Robert Olvera and I live in Paradox.

14 I was raised in Uravan. I started
15 kindergarten there in 1959, graduated from high school
16 in '72 and lived there off and on until the mill shut
17 down. You can't live much closer to a mill than we did
18 in Uravan. So I have no fear of this new mill.

19 In the past some people think that while
20 doing reclamation work planting trees outside of Uravan
21 that they developed a rash. And that may be true, some
22 people might just be allergic to work. But to blame it
23 on Uravan is ridiculous. I'm losing my hair and don't
24 see as good as I use to, but it's not because I lived in
25 Uravan.

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1 Some people are worried about the resale
2 value of their land, and that's a legitimate worry. But
3 these people moved here from somewhere else. Most of us
4 from here are not worried. We were raised here, we were
5 schooled here, raised our families here, and when our
6 time's up they're going to bury us up on Boot Hill
7 beside the rest of all of our family.

8 People upstream from here are constantly
9 trying to push tourism down our throats. But we don't
10 want to be like them, we have our own identity and are
11 proud of it. Give us the choice of working in a mill or
12 a deep, dark mine, or swabbing toilets and waiting on
13 ungrateful people, we'll taking mining and milling any
14 day.

15 Thank you for your time.

16 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Next
17 speaker. And before you speak, let me call out the
18 names of the next group of five.

19 We need to take a short break. You folks
20 here in the staging area, we'll go ahead and have you
21 speak, then we'll take a short break for a little bit
22 and then we will resume with the speakers. So that will
23 give you a heads-up on that in just a minute. So go
24 ahead.

25 TOM CAVANAUGH: Okay. Good evening,

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1 I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I want to touch
2 on the geology of the area, and before I do so, my name
3 is Tom Cavanaugh, I am from Arvada, Colorado but I am a
4 certified registered professional geologist with over 35
5 years experience. I did start off in uranium
6 exploration and development and I've been in and out of
7 that business through the boom and bust of that business
8 for a long time.

9 My broad experience is in the geological
10 sciences, and the last ten years have been focussed
11 mostly in environmental geology and hydrology in senior
12 management roles focussed primarily on the permitting of
13 and compliance of, you know, with the wide variety of
14 federal, state and local regulatory agencies.

15 I do represent a number of clients that are
16 currently in the uranium business in this specific area
17 and I am very familiar with what's going on.

18 I would like to emphasize that the Paradox
19 Valley, especially the specific site of this mill
20 location, is an ideal location and for many reasons.
21 You know, in the process of getting up to speed on
22 Paradox Valley, I permitted on the mesa, both north and
23 south of the Valley, I'm familiar with the mesa geology
24 and looked closely at the reports that have been
25 submitted to you. I looked at the environmental reports

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1 prepared by Edge. I looked at Volume 5 of the
2 geological reports prepared by Kleinfelder and the deep
3 Volume 5, the hydrological report. These are fairly
4 immaculate reports and I think, by nationally recognized
5 companies, and I think they clarify that it is a good
6 and safe place to build. As Frank said, one of the
7 finer hydro locations, there's no surface or ground
8 water that are in contention.

9 Geographically it's ideal, you're in the
10 middle of the Uravan Mineral Belt, backside of the
11 geology because the mesa is on the adjacent part, it's
12 in the formation it's supposed to be in.

13 It's ideal, the Valley has a thin veneer of
14 alluvium. That that alluvium, with over a hundred bore
15 holes drilled in the vicinity, has no ground water in
16 it. It will, the precipitation will fall into the
17 alluvium and will be dispersed and go down the stream,
18 but there is no standing ground water in it.

19 The bedrock perimeter of the site is
20 primarily aquitards, that is, they don't hold water.
21 The exception is adjacent to the Valley; we've got the
22 Moenkopi and Chinle fractures that do hold water and
23 that water is positioned to support the mill, but as to
24 CDPHE standards for domestic and agricultural use,
25 they're consistently, the water there is monitored, is

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1 consistently out of compliance with those purposes but
2 it's ideal for the mill.

3 I've got a lot more issues of the geology
4 of why it's an appropriate place.

5 I just want to say that you folks will
6 review it in detail, I know that, and I hope that you
7 come to a quick and speedy approval for this mill
8 construction.

9 I thank you very much.

10 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
11 Next speaker.

12 DIANNA REAMS: Hello. My name is
13 Dianna Reams. I am a director for Western Small Miners
14 Association; a principal for Williams Construction
15 Company, a general contractor; and for Tomcat Mining
16 Corporation in Uravan, an underground mining contracting
17 firm.

18 I appreciate Western Small Miners and MEDC
19 for the very fine job study that they conducted and
20 presented to you and also pointing out that this mill
21 and mining would create about 1400 jobs for us here.
22 Currently our population is around 2300 in Nucla,
23 Naturita and Paradox. You can imagine what 1400 jobs
24 will do for this area. We will be a destination of
25 choice for once.

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1 Beyond that, we will be competing with
2 other areas for the employees. Most notably, Telluride.
3 Right now about 400 to 450 of our residents travel to
4 Telluride every day for service jobs. These are
5 low-level jobs, but, I mean, it's a good living and the
6 people enjoy it up there, that's great. But we will be
7 competing for those employees as far as Grand Junction,
8 Montrose, Dove Creek, Dolores County, possibly as far as
9 Cortez.

10 Anyway, what does that do for us here in
11 this town and how do we actually manage that growth.
12 Well, when we saw in 2004 that this industry was going
13 to take off, the towns got together, the chambers, and
14 we started working. We built a state of the art water
15 treatment system and now both towns are combined and use
16 that sewer system, and we are at 12 percent capacity.
17 So we have plenty of capacity.

18 We are currently looking at building a
19 combined waste treatment facility in Naturita. And the
20 town of Naturita has gotten busy and adopted building
21 codes and planning and zoning. Additionally, we have
22 spoken with the county, we understand the gross receipts
23 we may have. We've agreed to set a base tax rate, and
24 all the revenues that we can generate locally as a
25 result of this industry, we are designating at least 50

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1 percent to be dedicated to be set aside in funds
2 specifically for economic development in this area.
3 That gives us the sustainability and depth in our
4 economic development.

5 Additionally, Energy Fuels has promised a
6 tipping fee of some amount, a percentage that will also
7 be administered by a local group, so that also creates
8 sustainability. This will allow second and third
9 industries and will help primary industries to come into
10 this area.

11 We should also increase our school
12 population from the current 360 students to almost 900,
13 just based on statistics.

14 Because of our construction company we have
15 a permit from CDC for waste disposal, we know that
16 they're going to regulate this, and they'll do an
17 outstanding job.

18 And in the mining industry working with
19 MSHA, we also know that it will be overseen in a
20 professional and complete manner.

21 Thank you.

22 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: All right,
23 thank you.

24 We are going to take a break, Mr. Rusk
25 needs to rest his fingers for a while. We'll break for

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1 a few moments. You can still sign up to speak, we have
2 a few slots left. And remember, you can put in the
3 comment box any comments that you have as well.

4 So enjoy your break, we'll probably come
5 back in about ten minutes or so.

6 (A recess was taken.)

7 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Let's get
8 started. The names of the next five speakers; Tom Kyle;
9 Yancy Burtis; Judy Hammond; Neal Hall; Ruth Phippeny.

10 Mr. Kyle, are you ready? You may address
11 the audience. Thank you.

12 TOM KYLE BROWN: I would like to
13 thank the Department of Health for taking comments from
14 the public. It looks like we have a pretty good turnout
15 for the mill.

16 I'd like to have a word for all the people
17 that are against the mill this evening, and I have one
18 question for you.

19 Additionally I would like to compliment the
20 Department of Health on their web site, very
21 informative, well done. I notice on the web site that
22 you have extensive questions on radon gas.

23 Of the people I have a question, of the
24 people against the mill, have any of you ordered a tape
25 from the Department of Health, specifically a tape on

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1 radon gas? I assume no one has ordered that.

2 As you know, Colorado, and especially
3 Montrose County, has got one of the higher radioactive
4 backgrounds in the state. An estimated 20,000 people
5 die every year in the United States due to radon gas.
6 And it's in most everybody's home. The Department's web
7 site claims almost half of the homes in Colorado have
8 radon gas. So I'm surprised that the people that are
9 against the mill have not ordered the \$15 tape. It's
10 very simple.

11 Also the web site says that radon gas kills
12 more people in the United States than drunk driving. It
13 is five times higher than, say, swimming, recreational
14 laps or such things as swimming and boating and
15 drowning. Seven times higher is radon exposure to gas
16 than the average home house fire. Over 280 people lost
17 their lives in Colorado last year due to radon gas
18 exposure in their own home.

19 So the point of what I'm trying to say, if
20 you people against the mill have not even ordered the
21 kit and recognized the radon in your own home, basically
22 if you aren't concerned enough to protect you and your
23 family from radon gas, how can you spend your time and
24 gas and your energy to come up here and continue to
25 fight the mill if you do not have the basic intelligence

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1 to test your own home for radon.
2 Thank you.
3 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: All right.
4 The next speaker is Yancy Burtis. And I would like the
5 speakers to address their comments, please, to the
6 Department of Health. Thank you. Mr. Burtis is not
7 here. Mr. Burtis is not in the audience, all right.
8 Judy Hammond.
9 JUDY HAMMOND: Hello, my name is Judy
10 Hammond.
11 Last year a petition was circulated in the
12 area for just a couple of weeks, and in that short time
13 there was 300 signatures put on in support of the mill.
14 And I would like to give that to you.
15 I have not lived in the area all my life,
16 I'm a transplant to Nucla. I grew up in Leadville,
17 Colorado and my father worked in the mines there. When
18 I got out of high school I went to work in the silver
19 mines in Leadville. And when the silver mines shut
20 down, I moved to Grand Junction, Colorado and I worked
21 in the coal mine in Grand Junction. And that coal mine
22 shut down, and from there I went to Craig, Colorado and
23 I went to work in the gold mine in Craig, Colorado.
24 When that shut down I moved back to Grand Junction and I
25 went to work for the oil shale contractors in Grand

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1 Junction. When that shut down I moved to Cripple Creek,
2 Colorado and worked for the gold mine in Cripple Creek.
3 And that one is actually still running. I actually quit
4 that job because I wanted to get back on the Western
5 Slope. And lo and behold, who offers me a job but
6 Western Fuels in Nucla, Colorado. There were 21 jobs
7 available up here, and for this small community, which
8 needs jobs locally, I was really lucky to get on. I
9 continue to live here. And there are very few women
10 heavy equipment operators, and I was so lucky to get
11 this opportunity.
12 Let me tell you, when I moved up here I
13 thought I had fallen off the face of the earth. My aunt
14 said it was a jumping off spot for purgatory. But the
15 people in the community have just been awesome. I've
16 lived here 17 years and I have four years to go to
17 retirement at the local coal mine.
18 It is so important to the people of
19 Colorado to have mining available. What would we do if
20 we can't mine. My family has lived it, I've lived it.
21 My son is an equipment operator in Grand Junction. My
22 other son is a pipe fitter and he has to travel all over
23 the state of Colorado.
24 I went to the best school there could ever
25 be in Leadville, Colorado because mining supported that

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1 school. I know what mining can do for communities. I
2 really, really hope that you guys don't let the people
3 of Colorado down and support this mill and support our
4 mining heritage.
5 Thank you.
6 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
7 the next speaker is Mr. Hall, Neal Hall. And while
8 you're making your way to the podium, the next five
9 speakers are; Dan Chancellor, Buck Kimble, Craig
10 Pirazzi, Don Colcord, and Julie Schneider.
11 Go ahead.
12 NEAL HALL: Thank you. I want to
13 address the panel tonight and thank everybody in this
14 audience. I was, I'm still in awe with all the
15 stickers, I think it's a huge show of support for the
16 mill.
17 My name is Neal Hall, I'm the business
18 manager of Colorado Building Inspections Trade Council.
19 I don't live in this area, but I have hundreds of
20 members who do. I represent approximately 30,000 union
21 construction workers in the state of Colorado. We have
22 worked in this area, the Nucla power plant, in Telluride
23 and in Uravan years ago. We have got a vested interest
24 in this area, also. And there are many members of the
25 building trade in this audience tonight of those who do

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1 live in this area, and lot of those who couldn't come
2 tonight.
3 But what I'm here to tell you is that we
4 understand the technology has changed. The building
5 trade is one of the leading forces in safety training
6 for hazardous materials. We have a record here in
7 Colorado of safely cleaning up of Rocky Flats. That was
8 a huge project and a very, very dangerous project.
9 Rocky Flats was one of the -- there was a building there
10 called the dirtiest in American, and it probably was.
11 That building was cleaned up successfully by our workers
12 by the companies that were regulated by the Department
13 of Health. They know what has to be done to protection
14 workers.
15 Today we protect workers in many ways; with
16 protective equipment, personal protective equipment, and
17 also with training. And the building trade is a leader
18 in a training in each of our crafts. Each craft has an
19 apprenticeship program. Part of that training
20 extensively is safety training. Hazmat classes are
21 given by every craft.
22 So we're here tonight to support this mill.
23 It's job, jobs, jobs. And everybody knows that, and
24 especially if you come from a rural area, I live in
25 Fremont County myself and jobs are hard, they're few

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1 and far between and hard to get. We want to make
2 certain when we do have jobs that we have decent jobs
3 that pay decent wages and benefits; health insurance,
4 pensions, so that these people can go to sustain their
5 lives and to live and to take their kids to college and
6 do all the things that the American dream talks about.
7 So these jobs here have that potential, and
8 that's why the Colorado Building Trades is supporting
9 this project wholeheartedly, and all of our members on
10 the Western Slope.
11 Thank you very much.
12 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
13 Ruth Phippeny. Let me call, while you're making your
14 way down, let me call the names of the other five folks.
15 Dan Chancellor. Buck Kimble. Craig Pirazzi. Don
16 Colcord. And Julie Schneider. There are some folks who
17 have made the decision not to speak because their
18 comments are being echoed by other speakers. So let me
19 call out three more names and you may come down as well.
20 Mary Sunderland. David Glynn. And Richard Estes.
21 RUTH PHIPPENY: Hi, my name is Ruth
22 Phippeny and I live at 6353 Road V in Bedrock, the west
23 end of Paradox Valley. And I would like to encourage
24 you to vote in favor of the Pinon Ridge Mine.
25 My family has been raising quality

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1 livestock feed in the Paradox Valley for more than 30
2 years and we plan to continue doing that even if the
3 mill is approved.
4 Regarding how the mill will affect
5 agriculture in the Paradox Valley, I would like to
6 address a couple of objections that I've heard
7 previously at hearings for the mill. These involve the
8 dangers to agriculture caused by the mill.
9 I've heard mentioned the danger to
10 agricultural from the radioactive dust in the mill.
11 Regardless of whether any radioactive dust is available
12 from the mill site to be a potential threat, the
13 actuality is that the prevailing winds in this area go
14 from west to east, from Paradox to the proposed mill
15 site, rather than the other way around. This makes
16 contamination in our valley from any product of the mill
17 much less likely than you would think after listening to
18 some of the mill opponents.
19 I've also heard mention of the danger to
20 the organic vegetables in the Paradox Valley. In
21 actuality, today there really isn't an organic vegetable
22 industry in the area. If you consider the group of
23 people in Paradox who derive the major portion of their
24 income from agriculture, they do not depend on organic
25 vegetables for income.

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1 I think all of us can make a diligent
2 effort to use safe and generally accepted methods of
3 cultivation to produce quality products, even if we do
4 not have the official organic certification. We are the
5 original environmentalists who nurture our potential
6 land from which we make our living even though we may
7 not call ourselves environmentalists. And there is
8 nothing about the proposed mill construction or
9 operation that endangers the continuation of these
10 practices.
11 Ranching and farming in Paradox is a
12 dangerous occupation. Depending on which list you look
13 at, ranching and farming are the fifth or sixth most
14 dangerous occupations in the US. But this is not from
15 killer corn plants or mad cows or even uranium mills
16 operating in close proximity to the farm, but rather
17 from not following safety practices appropriate to the
18 industry.
19 Energy Fuels is spending much time and
20 effort and money to build a facility that will follow
21 the safety practices appropriate to the industry. It
22 will be the safest possible facility based on current
23 knowledge and modern technology available. With the
24 effort they're making, working in a uranium mill will
25 never be on the list of dangerous occupations.

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1 Again, I would urge you to support the
2 Pinon Ridge Mill.
3 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
4 Dan Chancellor.
5 DAN CHANCELLOR: Hello, my name is
6 Dan Chancellor and I've lived in Colorado all my life.
7 At the young age of 58 my father died from
8 lung cancer associated with exposure to radioactive
9 materials. In Grand Junction radioactive tailings were
10 used in and around the foundation of his home. At the
11 time it must have seemed like a good solution to remove
12 tailings and dispose of them. Some of the supporters
13 look back at this and other practices and say, sure
14 those practices were dangerous and shortsighted, but we
15 know better now. Our solutions are safe and viable.
16 Fifty years from now we will look back in
17 remorse and say, sure those practices in 2010 were
18 dangerous and shortsighted, but we know better, our
19 solutions are safe and viable.
20 Both of my sons are engineers and I have
21 great respect for current technology, but I think it is
22 the height of arrogance to believe that we can safely
23 and permanently store materials that remain lethal for
24 tens of thousands of years. Who among us can accurately
25 predict events 50,000 years into the future.

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1 Colorado taxpayers, like myself, have
2 already spent over a billion dollars in cleaning up past
3 uranium operations while much more clean up lies ahead.
4 Financial statements reveal that Energy Fuels cannot
5 support the developed project, post an adequate bond or
6 even retain professional consultants to maintain the
7 highest level of public health or environmental
8 protection. Consequently, Energy Fuels will require a
9 new partner to fulfill its permit. This new company
10 will not be subject to the same public and official
11 scrutiny and will not be bound by the promises made by
12 Energy Fuels.

13 Without a legal commitment, most of the
14 jobs are likely to go to more experienced or less
15 expensive workers from other places. If Energy Fuels
16 wants the full support of this community, it should
17 guarantee in writing 80 percent of the full-time jobs go
18 to the good people of this community. Even a handful of
19 jobs are significant in the face of the integral,
20 economic and environmental degradation, even without the
21 weak, failed inaction common within this industry, the
22 negative discussion of a radioactive waste dump, could
23 still be a benefit to the regional economy based on
24 agriculture and tourism.

25 You are charged with protecting the health

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1 and welfare of all of Colorado residents. Please
2 consider this as you weigh the profits of the foreign
3 companies against the vital needs of those of us who
4 have nothing to gain and everything to lose.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
7 Buck Kimble. Craig Pirazzi.

8 CRAIG PIRAZZI: Hi, I'm Craig Pirazzi
9 and I live at 6674 T Road in Paradox.

10 I'm a little confused as to the purpose of
11 this meeting tonight, maybe I missed something at the
12 beginning, but as an environmental protection board I'm
13 not sure where the appropriateness of the economics come
14 into this, maybe it's health and welfare and maybe that
15 covers it, I'm honestly not sure. But the feeling that
16 I got from everybody coming up, the majority of the
17 people coming and speaking tonight about needing jobs.
18 Every person that came up here and spoke to you guys
19 about needing jobs, I, I have a great amount of respect
20 for. I hear my neighbors from Paradox that also need
21 jobs and the economy is pretty bad. And that's
22 something that's obvious.

23 One thing I would like to point out,
24 though, in this area, and especially in these two towns
25 here, is the amount of people that need jobs here and

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1 the economic deprivation that has been here for the last
2 30 years is due, in large part, to uranium and
3 extractive resources of mining.

4 That's a huge thing you need to consider as
5 far as these jobs being sustainable. People have come
6 up here and talked to you about moving from community to
7 community to community to follow uranium jobs because
8 they are so unstable and they're unstable due to whim of
9 the resource prices around the world. And the only
10 exception is the uranium prices right now, which may be
11 affected by the mining in any country around the world
12 that has uranium. These are not stable jobs. These
13 people deserve better. And to build an economy again,
14 once again, on uranium and to pin all these people's
15 hopes and lives and their families on uranium, and watch
16 it collapse the next time, the next time we see a
17 fluctuation in the price of uranium, I don't think is
18 appropriate for these people or this area or this county
19 or this state or this country. I think there's a lot
20 better resources out there.

21 I'd like to address a few things about the
22 safety and health of people, and I've only got a few
23 seconds here, but one thing that is brought up is air
24 quality, and we've just gone through over a month of
25 inversions out in the Paradox Valley. When you see that

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1 air sitting in there, and we've heard experts from
2 Energy Fuels get up here and tell us that the people in
3 Telluride have nothing to worry about because the only
4 time there will be concentrations of uranium in the air,
5 or toxins in the air from this mill will be when air is
6 calm and sitting in the valley. And unless you plan on
7 sacrificing the population of Paradox Valley, because
8 it's small enough and we think that's an acceptable loss
9 compared to the benefits of it, then, I mean, that's,
10 that's the only thing I can see why you would justify
11 risking the people's health in the Paradox Valley.

12 And there's numerous other things that I
13 would like to address as far as the health and safety
14 health and I hope this conversation continues in a more,
15 in a forum which is a little more conducive to
16 expressing and sharing thoughts rather than this few
17 minutes of pro and con.

18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
20 Mr. Colcord,

21 DON COLCORD: My name is Don Colcord,
22 I'm a pharmacist here in the area. I would like to
23 present a study here I got off the Internet from the
24 Health Physics Society who made a study of radiation
25 risks. Most of this is going to be data that is what

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1 they call linear or non-threshold. They don't use the
2 threshold but it is a lesser amount of radiation or a
3 low base radiation, which obviously can't happen in this
4 world as we know it.

5 Anyway, the study basically shows that you
6 can't use it without a threshold limit. I do want to
7 leave you the study here, but it says the current
8 philosophy of radiation protection is based on the
9 assumption that any radiation dose, no matter how small,
10 may result in human health effects, such as cancer and
11 hereditary genetic damage. There is substantial and
12 convincing scientific evidence for health risks at high
13 doses of radiation exposure. Below 10 rem, again,
14 that's 10 rem, not 10 milirem, which includes
15 occupational and environmental exposures, risks of
16 health effects are either too small to be observed or
17 are non-existent.

18 Again, this is a study put out by the
19 Health Physics Society and I'll give you that study
20 here.

21 I would also like to bring up the study
22 that I was a proponent in. I think it was you guys that
23 triggered the University of Colorado to do a study in
24 the late 1970s early '80s to examine the health effects
25 of all the people that lived in Uruan and they studied

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1 them from the earliest member they could find. I think
2 you guys know what the study said. The study said that
3 they were significantly healthier than the population at
4 whole. I'm not a statistician, I do not know what the P
5 factor was to generate that, but it showed that we were
6 healthier than the other population. And you guys, you
7 had your men coming down because you knew we used radon,
8 used uranium mill tailings for the foundations of our
9 houses and stuff like that and most of us lived in that.
10 But I'm just saying, it showed that we were healthier,
11 yet we lived in the damage that you were concerned
12 about.

13 Also just as a personal point of view, if
14 we want to keep America moving there is no way we are
15 ever going to supply enough power to provide movement
16 capabilities for millions of Americans to get back and
17 forth to work without electrical power, the only thing
18 that can do that is nuclear power, there's no way you
19 can get it from anything else.

20 Here's the study, if you'd like to look at
21 it.

22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

24 Julie Schneider.

25 JULIE SCHNEIDER: Hi, I'm Julie

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1 Schneider I live in the west end of Paradox Valley.

2 I have a few moments. First of all, this
3 is supposed to be a technical process in relation to
4 technical documents. I haven't seen this yet so far and
5 that's because the comment period is not conducive to
6 commenting on the very technical issues. So most of our
7 comments from the Paradox Valley Sustainability
8 Association and other organizations, we have reports
9 that we will send to you that will be very detailed and
10 explicit as to the regulations involved. So those will
11 be coming later, because it takes an awful long time to
12 review those documents.

13 That being said, I have looked at the
14 biological documents, the wildlife biological documents
15 in particular, because that's my area of expertise. I
16 have been a biological consultant for many years, I've
17 done a lot of compliance documentations for many
18 biological assessments, EIS. I've done farm pipe lines,
19 electrical power lines, mining operations. In fact, I
20 used to be a certified miner for underground surface
21 mining because some of the mining work that I had done.

22 That being said, these are some of the
23 worst, if not the worst wildlife reports that I've ever
24 seen done. It certainly was not done in a very
25 professional manner. They do not follow the protocol.

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1 So the quality of these documents is appalling, to say
2 the least. In fact, for these to be consider acceptable
3 for this process is appalling as well. So expect a lot
4 of comments on this issue, because there is a lot of
5 things that were missed. There was virtually no
6 cumulative impact analysis I guess they just left that
7 off because I guess it doesn't exist.

8 Lets see what else. In the order of
9 comments, the public comment systems doesn't seem to be
10 working very well. We had some comments in regards to
11 completion review that your system didn't work, in fact
12 we sent them to you three times. Nobody ever seemed to
13 receive them except through a reporter. And people have
14 signed up for your online notification process and do
15 not appear to be getting notified. So there seems to be
16 some problems with your public communication process
17 here.

18 And we would like to know if you're
19 actually going to provide the proposed license for us to
20 actually review and comment. Do you have any idea when
21 the license is going -- so not until towards the very
22 end.

23 Thank you.

24 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.

25 David Glynn.

1 DAVID GLYNN: Hi, my name is David
2 Glynn, I live in Ophir, Colorado. I've been a resident
3 of the area for 35 years.

4 I'm struggling financially. This year I
5 had to write a credit card check for my rent, could not
6 afford it, have not been able to pay that loan off.

7 But I'm not here to talk about finances.
8 I'm not here to talk about poverty and money being used
9 as a weapon. What I'm here to talk about is I want to
10 express my opinion against the mill.

11 Also I want to make it known that we have
12 radon, radiation in our home. We are aware that there
13 is radon. The mill and mining of uranium is the low end
14 of the dangerous side of the uranium. That is the easy
15 end. The hard end is what happens to the waste. And
16 I'm not talking about the waste of vanadium, I'm talking
17 about the waste that comes out of the Nucla power plant.
18 Every time uranium is processed it gets more toxic and
19 more dangerous. That end of the game is not being
20 experienced by the West End here or in San Miguel County
21 or Ophir. Let me stress these dangers are spread across
22 the planet in other areas.

23 We could not have a Hiroshima or Nagasaki
24 without a uranium mine or mill somewhere. We could not
25 have a Chernobyl if we did not have a mine somewhere

1 feel for this kind of business.

2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
4 Those are all the speakers for this evening. Let me
5 open one thing up here, Mr. Tarlton and some or all of
6 his staff are going to remain. We are going to close
7 the official proceeding, the public input meeting and
8 we'll cease making a record here in just a moment. But
9 Mr. Tarlton is here, they are staying in Naturita, and
10 they are very happy to stay for a while to receive any
11 other additional comments or input that you folks have.
12 If you have completed a comment card, please make sure
13 it gets into the comment box so they can pick that up
14 after the meeting.

15 So with that, thank you all very, very much
16 for coming. In spite of some of our problems in
17 American, isn't it kind of nice we don't get shot for
18 expressing our opinions and we can listen to that.

19 So thank you all for coming and I'll turn
20 it over to Mr. Tarlton.

21 (Hearing adjourned at 8:33 p.m.)
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1 like the West End, or a mill like Energy Fuels. And I
2 hope that you, as protectors of our environment and our
3 health, realize that we are not just talking about the
4 beginning of this game, we are talking about the end of
5 the game. There is no long-term solution to nuclear
6 waste, the high level nuclear waste. There is no
7 solution at this time. And until there is a solution,
8 to this, I don't think it is wise to grant any permit
9 for a mill of this type because of that. So I hope you
10 take the ending into your consideration, heavily into
11 your consideration as you go through this process.

12 Thank you.

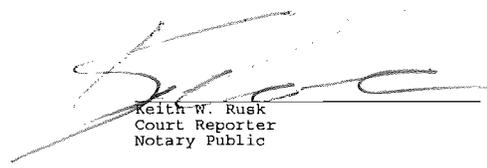
13 JUDGE RICHARD J. BROWN: Thank you.
14 Richard Estes.

15 PAULA BROWN: Hello, my name is
16 Richard Estes I'm from Naturita, very proud to be from
17 Naturita. I've been in Telluride since '84. Energy
18 from the ground is the black sheep, that's the bad guy.
19 When I moved to Telluride there was something in the air
20 from the national gas company, they got it cleaned up.
21 There's a lot of smart people working there, just like
22 there's a lot of start people working in uranium
23 production. I feel that most people in this room, I
24 know a lot of them personally, a lot of them I don't,
25 but the people I know I from the West End, they have a

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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3
4 I, Keith Rusk, do hereby certify that the
5 said hearing was taken in shorthand by me at the time
6 and place aforesaid and was reduced to typewritten form
7 under my supervision; that the foregoing is a true
8 transcript of the proceeding had.

9 My commission expires 3/3/10.
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Keith W. Rusk
Court Reporter
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