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	6 PUBLIC MEETING FOR	R THE DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC
	7 ENVIRONMENTAL IMI	PACT STATEMENT (PEIS) FOR
	8 SOLAR ENERGY DEVELO	DPMENT IN SIX SOUTHWESTERN STATES
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	11 Taken At: CRYSTAL II	NN HOTEL & SUITES
	12 1575 West 200 No	orth
	Cedar City, Utah 8	4720
	14	
	March 9, 2011	
	17 7 p.m.	
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 MR. JAMES WADE: Well, maybe I'm in the wrong
- 3 meeting. My place is, I want to talk about Nevada.
- 4 From Utah, though. I came from far away. I live in
- 5 St. George, Utah. And my allotment is in East Mormon
- 6 Range in southern Nevada.
- 7 And I have commented a couple of times by
- 8 letter to these people or to the BLM. And I don't
- 9 think they heard me. But I just want to show you a map
- 10 here of where they are talking about it. And you don't
- 11 see this the way it is on any map. There's two great
- 12 big -- there's two great big gullies that go right
- 13 through the middle of this area they are talking about.
- 14 And they are anywhere from 50 feet across to 100 feet,
- 15 and an average of 25 feet deep. There's all kinds of
- 16 little washes running into these.
- 17 And another thing maybe I could, the main --
- 18 my main concern is, right about here, we have two live
- 19 waters on this allotment, only two live waters on this
- 20 whole 90,000 acres. And one of them's right here. And
- 21 the other one's up in the other end. One of them is
- 22 roughly a quarter of a mile away. And the other is
- 23 roughly a half mile away. So, that's my main concern,
- 24 is where these, they are going to build this.
- 25 Then another thing I would like to have

- 1 answered is, they have to grade this to a certain
- 2 grade. They can't just go like this. I have been in
- 3 the construction business. I know what it's going to
- 4 cost. It's going to cost millions and millions of
- 5 dollars, moving dirt where they are talking about where
- 6 they want to do it. And I would just like some answers
- 7 from somebody to tell me why they picked this place
- 8 when there's other places within the area that's non --
- 9 not being used. It's closed.
- 10 And I would be willing, if they would take
- 11 the east part of this, on the other side of that big
- 12 wash, if they would take that, it would be fine. I
- 13 have no objections if they take that strip there. But
- 14 where they are doing it close to our waters, I'm really
- 15 concerned about it.
- And then another thing, where are they going
- 17 to get their water from? They've got to have water, I
- 18 understand, to wash them or whatever. Are they going
- 19 haul it? These are some answers I would like to know.
- And then another thing is, if they take
- 21 AUM's, if they take as much ground as they say -- I
- 22 have 80 AUMs. How are they going work with me on the
- 23 AUMs? They say they won't take any AUMs. That's BS.
- 24 Because we are allowed so many cows per AUM. And they
- 25 will go five years after they do this, then they will

- 1 take all of these AUMs just like they did the other
- 2 times. When they took the turtle area away from us,
- 3 30,000 acres, they wasn't going to take any AUMs then.
- 4 They went down the road four to five years. And we
- 5 started losing AUMs. I'll tell you, there are a bunch
- 6 of people that lie. They lied to us. And it's
- 7 upsetting. But I would like to have some of these
- 8 answers.
- 9 And I can get -- I'm not a talker. And I
- 10 don't know what they are doing. But I would like the
- 11 guy that went out there and picked this area, I would
- 12 like to talk to him and find out why he picked this
- 13 area when I know there are so many other areas that
- 14 would take less to build them and be -- wouldn't bother
- 15 anybody.
- So there's two areas, two BLM allotments
- 17 that's closed that's just east of me. Why don't they
- 18 use them? And it wouldn't take near as much work to
- 19 level them. That's all I have to say. Thank you.
- 20 MR. JOSEPH HERSHA: I'm not a native of Cedar
- 21 City. I moved here six years ago because the sun shines
- 22 here. Five years ago I put up --
- VOICE: Speak into the mic.
- MR. JOSEPH HERSHA: Five years ago I put up
- 25 solar panels here. And I have kept track of how much I

- 1 can make with them. For 1 kilowatt of solar panel, I
- 2 can make, average 5.5 kilowatts a day average. This is
- 3 a great place to do this. The sun shines here. I
- 4 would like to see it happen myself. I know there's
- 5 probably certain concerns that people have as exactly
- 6 where they happen. And you brought up one of my
- 7 concerns too, is water. This is a very dry state, and
- 8 water is a big issue here. I don't wash my solar
- 9 panels. And they stay clean. But I have multiple head 10 panels.
- I would like to direct one question to the
- 12 Department of Energy. I think this is a wonderful
- 13 thing that you do, that you are going out trying to
- 14 find alternative forms of energy. But this is the
- 15 supply side. And I would personally like to see more
- 16 done under the demand side. I think as Americans we
- 17 consume way too much energy. We should be cutting that
- 18 down too. And I think that's something that I hope the
- 19 Department of Energy would help, but I think the
- 20 government should help too. Thank you.
- MR. ED BUNDY: My name is Ed Bundy. I'm a
- 22 permittee on the East Mormon Mountains along with Mr.
- 23 Wade. And I, like him, am probably talking in the wrong
- 24 place. But I think our issues are pretty much the same.
- 25 And I, along with his recommendations, the

- 1 thing he said, the map they were talking about, I
- 2 question whether they looked at that in very good
- 3 perspective, because of the terrain that's there.
- 4 We have a grazing allotment there. And
- 5 this particular area is completely encompassed in our
- 6 allotment. So, if it's taken, if it's put there, it
- 7 reduces the size of our allotment tremendously.
- 8 Several years ago I bought the rights to
- 9 graze cattle there at a pretty expensive cost to us.
- 10 And it's been a way for my family all of my life there
- 11 and in Arizona. And, you know, just take that away
- 12 from us, you know, I wonder how each one of you would
- 13 feel if someone just come and took your livelihood away
- 14 from you. And I see nothing in any documents that
- 15 indicates that they would help you out, you know. We
- 16 are not asking for no bailouts or anything like that.
- 17 We have weathered droughts in this area on this permit.
- 18 We have weathered fires and things like that. And we
- 19 just have to cinch up a little tighter and keep going.
- We have a business there that's very
- 21 important to our economy. And we would just like to
- 22 stay there. There are people in the area that want
- 23 these solar plants on their place. Let's get them
- 24 there, where they want them, and leave us that have had
- 25 the permits taken away for turtles, you know, and some

- 1 for the Toquop Energy Power Plant down there. And
- 2 there is no consideration to us at all.
- 3 Anyway, I guess my main request here is the
- 4 East Mormon Mountains be deleted from this project.
- 5 And, also, I would like to state that I approve of the
- 6 Lincoln County Board of Commissioner's comments that
- 7 they have made, and also those made by -- her name is -
- 8 Connie Simpkins, I'm sorry, which are already on
- 9 record.
- 10 I'm not against solar energy at all. I am
- 11 for it. I, along with many others, agree that we are
- 12 kind of behind the ball on this. And it can be done.
- 13 But there are areas that are more better to put it in
- 14 than this area that we have.
- 15 And so, my final comment is if you decide to
- 16 put this in this area of the East Mormon Mountains,
- 17 that you do something to help us out where we've got
- 18 money invested in our business, and just take it away,
- 19 that some compensation be made in that area. Thank
- 20 you.
- 21 MR. GERALD WHIPPLE: Hello. My name is
- 22 Gerald Whipple. I'm with Solar Unlimited. I have been
- 23 doing solar renewable energy in this area for 14 years.
- 24 I've been in eastern Nevada, southern Nevada, and
- 25 northern Arizona. And we have a great region for

- 1 photovoltaic and renewable energy here. However, I do
- 2 share the concerns with the two gentlemen from Nevada.
- 3 I think certain technologies are very good for our
- 4 region and certain technologies are not. The CSP, the
- 5 power tower with their water usage or a coal or natural
- 6 gas power plant, because they are turning turbines
- 7 through steam, a lot of water usage is a big concern in
- 8 this area. So I think the technology used needs to be
- 9 really looked at.
- And, also, the mounting systems that the
- 11 gentleman brought up that needs to be looked at. There
- 12 are ways of mounting these panels, can be very
- 13 undisturbed, called helical piers. It's basically a
- 14 big screw that you screw in the ground. It's metal and
- 15 can be attached to whether it's fixed or tracking.
- So, there are ways of working around this.
- 17 And I really hope that they could do some of these
- 18 things in this region with less impact on our farmers
- 19 and ranchers in the local community. As the gentleman
- 20 said, there are areas that people do want it. And I
- 21 think that needs to be addressed, and areas where it
- 22 doesn't make any sense. So, it needs to be very open-
- 23 minded and very logical on the approach. And I think
- 24 it would be a very win-win situation for all of us.
- 25 Thank you.

- 1 MS. CONNIE SIMPKINS: Thank you very much for
- 2 the opportunity to speak about this important issue.
- 3 My name is Connie Simpkins. And I live in Panaca,
- 4 Nevada, where I have lived for 66 years. Since 1976 I
- 5 have had the opportunity to be the secretary of the
- 6 grazing board in that area for the two counties in
- 7 Nevada that it serves under the EABLM District, White
- 8 Pine County and Lincoln County.
- 9 We also have the opportunity to serve
- 10 ranchers that have their home base in Beaver County,
- 11 Iron County and Washington County. So, while I did
- 12 speak at the Caliente meeting, the comments that I made
- 13 in Caliente were for myself personally. And the other
- 14 part I want you to know about me is I am employed by
- 15 the Lincoln County commissioners on a different issue.
- 16 But we have the advantage of having one of our Lincoln
- 17 County commissioners here tonight to tell you what
- 18 stand the commissioners have taken. So what I will be
- 19 discussing with you is the stand that the grazing board
- 20 is bringing forward.
- We are definitely in favor of renewable
- 22 energy. But we strongly feel that it needs to be site-
- 23 specific and technology specific to meet the
- 24 requirements of the existing land owners and to meet
- 25 the mission statement of the BLM, which is multiple use

- 1 of the public land.
- We heard Jane and Linda talk about the six
- 3 western states. And there are seven energy areas in
- 4 Nevada. All seven of them are in southern Nevada.
- 5 Three of those seven are in Lincoln County. When you
- 6 take a look at the acres that are proposed by this
- 7 draft PEIS, the acres that are proposed in just Lincoln
- 8 County are 12 percent of all of it in the six western
- 9 states. And of the Nevada acreages, we are 58 percent.
- 10 So we think we have a pretty heavy load.
- 11 It's the grazing board's stand that these
- 12 projects do not take grazing AUMs, that they be
- 13 mitigated in a fashion that can increase the AUMs in a
- 14 different area. But to buy out a cowboy is not the
- 15 solution, because handing him some money, he can't --
- 16 Heavenly Father doesn't make any more land. You can't
- 17 go to the next county and find a pasture for your cows
- 18 if the solar panels are on their BLM grazing land. So
- 19 we take the stand of no net loss of AUMs. We want to be
- 20 in on this project from the beginning to the end.
- One of the things that we are strongest on is
- 22 when reclamation is happening and mitigation is
- 23 happening, that the solar company use a combination of
- 24 native and non-native seeds. And the reason for this
- 25 is practical. It's faster and cheaper. And the reason

- 1 it works is because the non-native seeds germinate and
- 2 take hold a lot quicker than the native seeds. You bet
- 3 cha'. If native seeds would take a hold easy, the non-
- 4 natives wouldn't be necessary. But they are necessary
- 5 for a cover crop to get the natives, the real good
- 6 stuff, established, and to keep out the noxious weeds.
- 7 Mr. Donahue, Commissioner Donahue will talk
- 8 to you in a few minutes about the stand the Lincoln
- 9 County commissioners have taken. And the grazing board
- 10 stands strongly behind all of the comments that they
- 11 have made during the scoping hearings, the
- 12 administrative draft and this draft. They will be
- 13 receiving a document that contains about 66 pages,
- 14 about five pages for the cover letter and 61 pages of
- 15 individual comments for the different chapters that
- 16 Jane and Linda talked about. The grazing board
- 17 supports all of these comments.
- One of the big things we have asked is that
- 19 the plans be made to protect winter fat. That's a
- 20 scientific name for white sage. And the reason that
- 21 that's so important is because that's very valuable
- 22 nutrition for cows and for sheep in their reproductive
- 23 processes. So there is nothing better. You can't take
- 24 them home and feed them grain -- I need to be quiet
- 25 here in a minute -- feed them grain and hay and get

- 1 them near the conception rate that you can on public
- 2 lands on white sage lands. That's why it's so
- 3 important to keep solar energy off of white sage.
- 4 When Mr. Bundy talked and Mr. Wade talked,
- 5 their allotment started out at just less than 100,000
- 6 acres. The turtles took half of it. The energy plant
- 7 took a square mile. And now, the proposal as in this
- 8 draft, takes 89,000 -- 8900 acres right out of the
- 9 middle of the best part of it, what he's got left.
- 10 Five years ago, a man-caused fire took 600,000 acres in
- 11 this general area and at least half of this particular
- 12 allotment.
- 13 If you take 8900 acres out of the middle of
- 14 this allotment, it's done. It isn't -- you can't go
- 15 somewhere else with it because, in Nevada, they have
- 16 beneficial use water law. If the grazing is gone and
- 17 the cows are gone, they can not prove beneficial use of
- 18 that water, so their water is gone. So, their ranch is
- 19 gone. Their ranch, the wealth of that business is
- 20 removed. It is not reduced, it's removed.
- We want to be involved from the start to the
- 22 finish. And they talk in this document about
- 23 reasonably foreseeable future projects. The thing that
- 24 Lincoln County commissioners are coming forward with
- 25 that the grazing board firmly approves of is a proposal

- 1 in the one allotment that's called Ely Springs
- 2 Allotment. And it's in the Dry Lake Valley. And it's
- 3 where the owner of the allotment and the owner of the
- 4 deeded acres are inviting that to the tune of a 50,000-
- 5 acre allotment. This Ely Springs cattle is 50,000
- 6 acres. The commissioners are recommending the west
- 7 half be used, leave the east half for, because of deer
- 8 migration patterns and slope concerns. And the west
- 9 half is 30,000 acres.
- When you talk about reasonably foreseeable,
- 11 there are, there is, right now, today, there is one
- 12 power line down through that area. But it does have a
- 13 power corridor. And within the next 18 months there
- 14 will be a 500KV power line going down through there.
- 15 It's commonly known as Swift South or On-line. It's a
- 16 joint project by NV Energy and LS Power. And in the
- 17 application paperwork process there is another power
- 18 line known as ONline -- excuse me, NV Energy's sole
- 19 project by themselves. The first project I mentioned
- 20 was a joint project.
- 21 The third project is a project by Southern
- 22 Nevada Water Authority, because they are going to need
- 23 power to run pumps to take water from rural Utah and
- 24 rural Nevada to southern Nevada. And then, the other
- 25 day, we just had a meeting on the Trans West Express

- 1 people who want to come from the east to the west, from
- 2 Wyoming and down through Utah, I-15 corridor. Now I
- 3 really need to be quiet. And so there are four
- 4 projects in this valley in the foreseeable future. And
- 5 they all -- if every one of them accepted only solar
- 6 power, the amount of solar power that we could generate
- 7 in the east half, in the east half of this allotment
- 8 would more than cover that. So we are urging, the
- 9 grazing board is urging the Department of Energy and
- 10 Argonne National and BLM to put it where it was
- 11 invited. It will work. It's more capacity than you
- 12 had in your original plans. Thank you very much.
- 13 COMMISSIONER PAUL DONOHUE: My name is Paul
- 14 Donohue. I'm a Lincoln County commissioner from
- 15 Pioche, Nevada. I did sign up. I was just late. I
- 16 actually had a flat tire on my way here. Mrs. Simpkins
- 17 has told you everything that the county commissioners
- 18 were going to tell you, so I'm not going to start all
- 19 over with most of that. I just want to tell you two
- 20 little stories really quick that kind of make my point.
- I grew up in Pioche. I have been there, a
- 22 fifth generation boy, and been very grateful for the
- 23 ranchers and the farmers and hunters and people that
- 24 use the land. Myself, personally, I have always
- 25 suffered from a little bit of hay fever, so I have just

- 1 enjoyed those things from afar. But, as I chose to run
- 2 for political office, I had a young lady that I grew up
- 3 with come to me. And she said, Paul, what's your view
- 4 on these allotments and this going on in our area out
- 5 there? And her family has had grazing rights out in
- 6 the Delamar Valley and up in the Dry Lake Valley for a
- 7 lot of years. And she has just recently, a couple
- 8 years ago, retired from being a school teacher and
- 9 taken over the family business.
- And as I visited with her and talked with her
- 11 about her concerns about losing this livelihood that's
- 12 been in her family history for years, we decided we
- 13 better show our concerns. So since then I have spent a
- 14 lot of time with Mrs. Simpkins and other commissioners
- 15 who know a lot more than I do about these particular
- 16 kind of things. And we have some concerns about the
- 17 industry that's really, really quite important to our
- 18 area.
- 19 I don't want her to lose her cattle business.
- 20 I really don't. And I would hope we would make every
- 21 effort as government individuals to see that they are
- 22 taken care of and their needs are met.
- We have since looked into, like we said,
- 24 areas that are beneficial. We understand that the sun
- 25 does really shine out there quite a bit. My nose got

- 1 sunburned there yesterday in my job. And so, we would
- 2 like to recommend that these sites be placed in these
- 3 valleys where the people want it to be there. They are
- 4 abundant there. They have water. They have everything
- 5 there. It's a nice flat place that if you go, and it's
- 6 close to this power corridor. So we feel this could be
- 7 a win-win situation.
- 8 We also would like to recommend technologies
- 9 that fit the multispecies and multiuse views so that
- 10 people can get around and see the sights, people who
- 11 like to hunt can still hunt, people who like to deal
- 12 with cattle can still deal with cattle.
- The last story I need to bore you with really
- 14 quickly is that out there, when this first started,
- 15 they actually went to the LDS Church out in that area,
- 16 who has a huge allotment and a ranch that they take
- 17 care of there. And they sat with them. And they were
- 18 really worried about the white sage and those things
- 19 that are very beneficial to the cattle. As they dealt
- 20 with the people who knew them from the original scoping
- 21 effort, they said to them, well, over here, we are
- 22 happy to give you this area over here that's nice and
- 23 flat. We actually have to haul feed to that. We have
- 24 to take care -- that's quite an effort to take care of
- 25 cows in that area. So if we could convince you to move

- 1 your view from here to here, that would be wonderful.
- 2 And we would support that. We'll help you. We'll do
- 3 everything we can.
- 4 But when we received the map, well, they
- 5 said, at the time they said, yeah, that would be a
- 6 great idea, it included both areas. So you can see our
- 7 concern that, you know, that our views maybe haven't
- 8 been considered. And so we are coming to all these
- 9 meetings. We are driving from Pioche area over here to
- 10 say, please, listen. We want to be good neighbors. We
- 11 do want to produce energy.
- My son's an electrical engineer, so I have
- 13 talked to him about a lot of things that go on and
- 14 those kind of things. But the sun does shine. It
- 15 shines in this area. Lincoln County has 10,000 square
- 16 miles and 5,000 people. So, there's plenty of room and
- 17 we can all live together happily. Thanks for this
- 18 opportunity. I also appreciate the comments that were
- 19 made. I really appreciate Connie. She's been very
- 20 beneficial to us on the commission for information.
- 21 And we are grateful to her. Thank you very much.
- MR. JIM CASE: My name is Jim Case. I live
- 23 here in Cedar City. I have lived here 21 years. And I
- 24 have been watching what's going on with energy
- 25 developments around this part of the world. And I

- 1 approve. I come here in sort of ignorance. I didn't
- 2 know about the scoping game. I didn't know how well
- 3 they were advertised. This is the first meeting I have
- 4 been to so, of course, I haven't read the EIS. So,
- 5 rather than having comments, I have questions.
- 6 First off, it's obvious you are only looking
- 7 at solar energy, and probably only considering, I'm
- 8 guessing, transmission corridors, existing and
- 9 proposed, in terms of the solar energy. But there's a
- 10 lot of wind energy development going on. And is there
- 11 any effort being made to share corridors? Because that
- 12 way you can cut down on the amount of land you take.
- 13 This is particularly the case with this, I think is one
- 14 of the transmission lines that was mentioned by the
- 15 lady from Lincoln County. It's the one coming down
- 16 from Wyoming to Las Vegas. They had a meeting here
- 17 just a matter of weeks ago. And it's going down
- 18 through the Escalante Valley using at least the
- 19 proposed corridor is the one that's presently used by
- 20 the DC power line that goes from Delta to Los Angeles.
- 21 So that particular transmission line, which would be
- 22 extremely high voltage with 700 some odd kilowatts or
- 23 megawatts or whatever.
- So, I'm concerned about is there coordination
- 25 between what's going on on BLM land with solar energy

- 1 and wind energy? And, also, what's going on with
- 2 private enterprise in this area? Because it was just
- 3 announced in the paper a few days ago that there is a
- 4 private effort going on just outside of Parowan. And I
- 5 presume it's on private land. But, by luck, they are
- 6 right next to a power substation. So they don't have
- 7 to worry about building. And they don't have to worry
- 8 about the effort involved in tying into a line, because
- 9 you have to build substations and all that to get the
- 10 voltage to match what's on the transmission line.
- When we talk about what's considered in terms
- 12 of the impacts, in this area there is a great deal of
- 13 concern about the prairie dogs. I'm not going to take
- 14 sides on that. The fact is, that they are trying to
- 15 set up mitigation areas for the prairie dogs so they
- 16 can move them out of the populated areas. So, you have
- 17 to take into account what's going on with the wildlife
- 18 administration and so on in terms of selecting
- 19 mitigation areas. And, generally, they want flat areas
- 20 for that that may be the same kind of areas you want
- 21 your solar panels to go in.
- Game migration routes, I think somebody
- 23 mentioned that. I-15 is the worst thing that ever
- 24 happened to migration routes of deer, I think,
- 25 particularly down here in Southern Utah. It used to be

- 1 the deer got -- every time you drove down to Black
- 2 Ridge there was a run-over deer there. I think the deer
- 3 are all gone now, because you don't see a run-over deer
- 4 anymore.
- 5 The other thing to consider is view scape. I
- 6 don't know if that's there. But I know, I attended a
- 7 meeting about winter lands on Harmony Mountain. And
- 8 that was a standing room only meeting. And the major
- 9 issue was how the wind turbines would hurt property
- 10 values down in New Harmony. Although, I don't think
- 11 you would even see them from New Harmony. You could
- 12 see them from I-15 and Kanarraville. But I know, also,
- 13 you don't include Indian reservations and that sort of
- 14 thing. But, again, I presume that if energy corridors
- 15 are involved, you sort of have to work with these other
- 16 entities to make sure that you are not duplicating
- 17 effort, that you can share corridors.
- Again, and I am really speaking from
- 19 ignorance on some of these. Maybe they are all
- 20 answered in the EIS. But I haven't seen it. So, until
- 21 I do see it, I'll change my questions to comments.
- 22 Maybe these are comments.
- 23 MR. SAM KRAVETZ: My name is Sam Kravetz. I
- 24 live down in Kanarraville. I attended the meeting the
- 25 gentleman talked about a little earlier on wind

- 1 turbines going on the mountain. And the people that
- 2 live in New Harmony, naturally, had a complaint. But I
- 3 think that all fell into the political role because all
- 4 the wind turbines were going to be in Iron County, not
- 5 in Washington County. And many comments were generated
- 6 on that. Well, why in the hell are they going to put
- 7 them up there where everybody can see them and take the
- 8 view away and ta-dah, ta-dah? Well, the answer
- 9 to that is they ran a feasibility study. And, of
- 10 course, wind turbines have to be where the wind is.
- 11 It's not like solar panels that it could be moved over
- 12 and the sun takes place. So that kind of answered that
- 13 question on wind turbines.
- 14 I just was wondering, my question to the
- 15 people here is, we had people from Nevada and people
- 16 from Utah questioning why they are putting these
- 17 proposed energy panels in areas that are going to cause
- 18 people who make their living from ranching and cattle,
- 19 what kind of feasibility study have you people done to
- 20 determine what areas you want to use? It would appear
- 21 to me that you have documentation that this BLM land
- 22 and this BLM land and this BLM land has all been
- 23 utilized by whatever. And, yet, it appears that this
- 24 is the land that you would want to put the panels on.
- 25 I'm kind of lost on this one.

- 1 If the BLM has these thousands and millions
- 2 of acres, why in the hell do we go where the cattle
- 3 are? Why don't we go where they are not being
- 4 utilized? That's my basic question. Thank you.
- 5 MR. CRAIG SPITLER: My name is Craig Spitler.
- 6 I'm on the Iron County Citizens Committee. My concern,
- 7 I haven't had a chance to read the thing. And I
- 8 haven't really got too much input from anybody else on
- 9 the committee. Just, they said show up to the meeting
- 10 and see what's going on. I see that there are solar
- 11 electric zones that are being tentatively established
- 12 here. I personally believe that there is a wealth of
- 13 natural resources under the state of Utah just, we
- 14 can't even begin to imagine now. And, I mean, already
- 15 we are seeing the impact this might have on the
- 16 ranchers that are just working on the surface. And my
- 17 concern is that I don't know what the permanency of
- 18 these SEZs are. I'm concerned that through lack of
- 19 sufficient foresight, not anybody's really at fault,
- 20 but it's hard for us to imagine just what all is down
- 21 there. And I'm afraid that if we, if these SEZs are not
- 22 subject to review, if we are going to permanently
- 23 establish things that may get in the way of things that
- 24 we want to do in the future, and where this is
- 25 controlled by the federal government, it could be very

- 1 much to the detriment of us living in the state of Utah
- 2 that we lose control of things.
- And I say that, just like the Escalante Stair
- 4 Step where they came in and they said, you know, the
- 5 richest coal deposit in the world, the highest quality
- 6 coal is now locked up for eternity because the federal
- 7 program has declared that a part. And there is no
- 8 prospect of ever being able to develop that unless Utah
- 9 revolts against the federal government. And that is
- 10 not a happy prospect that we would have to go through
- 11 something like that. But we are living in a time when
- 12 we are very much challenged for resources. For some
- 13 reason, our BLM, our Department of Energy have decided
- 14 that we can't solve our own problem, that it has to be
- 15 solved at a federal level, that we have to beg for
- 16 resources from somewhere else outside the country. And
- 17 it's hurting us. And we have no way of reviewing these
- 18 decisions that have been made. And it's my concern
- 19 that if this is going to be another one of these
- 20 programs where unilaterally decisions are made, our
- 21 children and our children's children are going to have
- 22 to live with these decisions with no input. I think
- 23 it's going to be a travesty and it's going to be a
- 24 chaffing point. That's my comment.
- So I think we need to have an ongoing review

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1 process so that as we discover new things about these
2 lands that we can use them optimally rather than being
3 stuck to a 2011 plan. Thank you.
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            (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded
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            at 8:24 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF UTAH
3	COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
4	THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING PROCEEDINGS
5	WERE TAKEN BEFORE ME, RUSSEL D. MORGAN, A CERTIFIED
6	SHORTHAND REPORTER IN AND FOR THE STATE OF UTAH,
7	RESIDING AT ASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH;
8	THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WERE REPORTED BY ME IN
9	STENOTYPE, AND THEREAFTER CAUSED BY ME TO BE
10	TRANSCRIBED INTO TYPEWRITING, AND THAT A TRUE AND
11	CORRECT TRANSCRIPTION OF SAID TESTIMONY SO TAKEN AND
12	TRANSCRIBED TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY IS SET FORTH IN
13	THE FOREGOING PAGES 2 to 24.
14	
15	
16	RUSSEL D. MORGAN, CSR
17	LICENSE #87-108442-7801
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