TRIBAL COUNCIL LISTENING SESSION

Window Rock, Arizona

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Ms. Joanna Austin-Manygoats
Navajo/English Interpreter
MS. KRISTIN DARR: Good morning, everybody.

It's Friday. Come on. It is Friday. Hey, we'll get started. I know it's 8:00 o'clock, but I'm just going to wait for 15 minutes. We will get started here shortly. Okay? So hang in there with me.

Mr. President, are you ready? You are ready?

Okay. Why don't you welcome everybody.

PRESIDENT RUSSELL BEGAYE: All right.

(Native language spoken.)

Good morning, everybody. Thank you for being here at the listening session. I believe this is the last one; right? Yeah, this is the last one. Your last chance to give your comments today. And then -- so it's really good to see -- to have our top guys from the Department of Interior here. Mr. Palumbo, he's been really there, attentive and helping us in the discussion and everything all from the beginning (native language spoken). So he's been there for us.

Leslie Meyers also critical in terms of hearing some of the things that you guys have to say.

(Native language spoken.) And then our reporter trying to learn Navajo over here.

(Native language spoken) Moderator, thank you.

As always, welcome to Window Rock, capital to
the Navajo Nation Nakai Hall. And then we always begin
with prayer. (Native language spoken.)

So Mr. Platero, I believe, is going to be
coming up to say our prayer.

(Prayer spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: I see you. Can you hear
me now? Yes. Okay.

All right. Good morning, everybody. My name
is Kristin Darr. And I am your third-party neutral
moderator for this listening session. Most of you know me.
For those of you who I have not met, my job is to make sure
that the Department of Interior gets to listen to you.

And before that we're going to do a short
presentation. Dave actually is going to do a short
presentation, and then we'll get into the listening
session. And I will explain more about that and so will
he. Okay?

So, Dave.

MR. DAVID PALUMBO: Good morning, everybody.
It's good to see many of you again. And it's good to see
many new faces.

Thank you, President Begaye, for the
hospitality for attending so many of these listening
sessions. It's very valuable to see you here. Thank you.

I wanted to explain a few things as we get
started. This is a presentation we've given at each of the
listening sessions, and today's listening session is the
fourth and final listening session of this tour regarding
the Navajo Generating Station.

The purpose of the listening session, as
Kristin said, is to hear you. We have a reporter. We have
Navajo translator here. We want to make sure that we have
a record of your position regarding the future of Navajo
Generating Station.

And Leslie and I will be taking notes, but
we'll also have the transcripts available to us, and we
will be setting up a website that we'll post all of the
transcripts onto as well as this presentation and other
relevant materials.

So in terms of process, you all know as
you've signed in to fill out a speaker card. We're going
to be limiting the comments to three minutes to make sure
we can accommodate as many people as possible. We also
have an email address set up NGS@USBR.gov that you can
submit your comments in writing whether they were the same
thing that you have spoken here today, whether they're a
supplemental or additional information that you would like
to share with us. And we'll be accepting those comments,
for a 30-day period until the 18th of June.

We're not responding to comments here today
nor from what comes in on the record. But again it will help the Department of Interior to the extent that we have decisions to make and understand what your positions are.

Again, Kristin has done a great job keeping us on track, getting as many people in as we can. She'll be moderating the session. Again, the court reporter will be here to record the conversation.

A little bit of history behind NGS. NGS is a 2,250 megawatt coal-fired power plant. It's located on tribal trust lands of the Navajo Nation outside Page, Arizona. There's three units there, each 750 megawatts. The current lease which was signed in 1969, December 22nd 1969, expires on December 22nd, 2019.

The coal for Navajo Generating Station is supplied from Kayenta mine, approximately 80 miles from Navajo Generating Station. There's a dedicated railroad, electric railroad between the mine and the plant. That mine is located on Navajo Nation lands as well as Hopi tribal lands.

The original lease, the original 50-year lease had a provision in it that allowed for a discretionary 25-year extension from 2019 through 2044. And because of that discretionary extension, the Department of the Interior started an EIS in 2014 to analyze the impacts of continued operation. We published a draft EIS
at the end of 2016 or towards the end of 2016. That EIS
would be picked up should operations continue past 2019.

This chart just describes the ownership
shares in Navajo Generating Station or the participants
that are part of Navajo Generating Station. The Department
of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, has a 24.3 percent
interest in Navajo Generating Station. Salt River Project
actually owns that for the use and benefit of the United
States. And Salt River Project is also considered the
operating agent for Navajo Generating Station.

In February the non-U.S. owners had a vote.
And they also issued a statement. With respect to the
statement, they indicated that they were not going to
continue operations at the plant post 2019, after
December 22nd, 2019.

They did indicate that they would be willing
to operate the plant through the end of 2019 if certain
agreements are reached by July 1st of this year. I'll talk
a little bit about those in just a moment.

So when that announcement came out by Salt
River Project and the non-U.S. owners, the United States,
the Department of the Interior began a process in early
March, March 1st. We brought together parties to discuss
how we should be proceeding. And we embarked on three
parallel paths that aren't necessarily mutually exclusive.
And I'll just quickly go over those three parallel paths.

The first path, very important, was getting to the end of 2019 with operations at NGS. That requires a negotiation and agreement between the Navajo Nation and Salt River Project. The Navajo Nation and the Salt River Project have been working diligently on that agreement, and we're expecting some positive news in the next couple of days with respect to the advancement of that agreement towards a council resolution and an execution by President Begaye.

So that process is ongoing. The Department of Interior is there to help to make sure that any questions that we need to provide answers to we can do so in realtime.

The second activity that is ongoing is operations past 2019. The current owners have indicated they're exiting because of economic reasons so there's an initiative underway to find out how to explore ways in which the plant could operate economically post 2019. That activity is going on. That also requires an exploration of finding new ownership as well as finding load or customers, if you will, for the power of the Navajo Generating Station. So that's the second of the three parallel paths.

The third parallel path is also very critical for us is making sure that we minimize negative impacts
through economic development for the Navajo Nation and the Hopi tribe should the plant shut down irrespective of the what time that is, whether it's 2044 or 2019, we are working diligently to find alternate ways in which economic development can be promoted in northern Arizona for the benefit of the Navajo Nation and the Hopi tribe.

And with that, we're going to go ahead and start the listening session. I'm going to turn it back over to Kristin. And, again, the email address is up here, and we will be getting out information on the website. So you can find that when we publish all the documents from these listening sessions. Thank you very much.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Those of you over at the table, I'm ready for some cards.

And while they're getting those ready for me, for those of you who don't know, there are speaker cards at the table, the sign-in table. We'd like to have you fill out one of these cards to indicate that you'd like to speak at this microphone.

I will call a speaker, and I will call the speaker that's on deck behind them. I will give you an indication when you have reached three minutes. And we're really trying to ask that everybody stay as close to three minutes as possible, so we can hear from as many of you as possible.
We're going to prioritize people who we have not heard from yet. We've been keeping track of all of the speakers, as we said, this is the fourth session. So we're going to prioritize speakers who have not spoken yet.

If you have already spoken and submitted a card, once we get through the speakers that have not spoken, then we'll do that first come, first serve. And we've been sorting those in order in which she received them.

Our Navajo interpreter Joanna is here. And I want to stress that it's an interpreter, not a translator. So she's going to tell us basically what you're saying, but not interpret word for word in the interest of time. We are going to go back to the audio transcripts, and we will get the word-for-word interpretation, but we're not going to do that here.

So does everybody understand that? It's for time sake only, she'll be summarizing basically what you've said if you choose to speak in Navajo.

Was anybody else born besides me in 1969, the year that this lease was signed? I'm the only one.

MR. DAVID PALUMBO: I was.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: You were. Okay. So Dave and I were born the year that this lease was signed. I just -- that hit me. And I wanted to tell you all how
honored I have been to be here to work with you all. And what an honor and a joy it was to travel across from Page across to Kykotsmovi and then in Window Rock today. It's very beautiful.

And I'm very grateful, and I'm grateful to all of you that have been so nice to me, because this is not an easy job to cut you off in three minutes. I know you have a lot you want to say. So thank you very much.

And thank you also for helping us set up, for helping me get stuff out of my car yesterday and bring it in. You guys, you've been great. So thank you very much.

And with that, did I forget anything, miss anything? All right. We are going to get started then. Our first speaker is going to be Roland Lee, followed by Barry Grass. Oh, I've got to get my timer.

Thank you, sir. Go ahead.

MR. ROLAND LEE: Good morning. My name is Roland Lee. I work for Peabody Coal.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Sir, speak up if you can because they can't hear you. I know. Our system is not that loud.

MR. ROLAND LEE: Are you going take that off my time?

MR. KRISTIN DARR: No.
MR. ROLAND LEE: My name is Ronald Lee, and I work at Kayenta mine. I work as a safety specialist. And I like to say that I'm a disabled veteran, and I've been in the military for 32 years and came out. Because of my injury, I was put out to pasture.

And what I'd like to say is that the mine gave me an opportunity to continue to service to my people and to my the country and my community. So I got brain farts. Excuse me.

This mine closure is going to affect a lot of people. I live down here in Window Rock area, so I travel across the reservation during the week and work up there and come home. And this mine closure is going to affect the whole reservation and also the outside communities, border towns, where we do a lot of our businesses, spend the money that we earn out there, not just the mine closure. It's going to affect also the power plant.

So with that respect, sirs and madam, you know, work hard at this at keeping this mine open and the power plant open. It's going to hurt, like I said, the communities out here throughout the reservation and the border towns.

With respect to the people that oppose the power plant, I would say if you don't like our electricity, our coal, turn off your power, turn off your water, so...
then you can stand by that if you're not using the power.

    That's all I got to say. I appreciate the
time that you guys listen to me.

    MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you. Thank you.
Okay. And I have an idea if you are having a
hard time hearing back there, there's some seats right up
here. Come on. I will not bite you. Don't be shy. Don't
be shy.

    Barry, and then Juanita Tallis.

    MR. BARRY GRASS: Good morning, everybody.
Do you want these guys up front? I can get
them all up here.

    Good morning. I'd like to say good morning
to the Department of Interior, the president of our Navajo
Nation, for the opportunity to speak today.

    My name is Barry Grass. I'm from Shonto,
Arizona. I'm born from Bitter Water, or edge water. I'm
edger water. I'm born for Bitter Water.

    (Navajo language spoken.)

    I've been a coal miner for 36 years. I know
a lot of the individuals here. I work with them on a daily
basis. I think over the past week, you've heard a lot of
different stories about the effects the closure would have
on people, the community. There's a lot at stake. I
really hope that when the decision is made by all the
individuals involved, that we consider, we consider all
that's been said. All that could be lost.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Barry, I'm sorry. I'm
going to interrupt you. I've stopped your time, just for a
moment.

Folks, in the back that are talking are
making it difficult for everybody to hear. So if you could
just think about that and consider us.

Thank you. Go ahead.

MR. BARRY GRASS: So just keep that in mind
when decisions got to be made, you know, that the effects
it will have on everybody involved. You've -- like I said
earlier, you've heard the impact it will have monetarily.
You've heard the impact it will have on the people
themselves and the communities. So take that into
consideration.

In closing, I know there was a study done
last month about the economics of NGS taking into the
consideration of the proposal -- coal reduced proposal and
the analyses done, natural gas analyses done. And from
that study, it was determined that NGS would still be one
of the lowest viable cost generating resources in the area.
And just keep that in mind.

I'd like, again, to thank you for the
opportunity to speak. And consider all that when the
decision is made. Thank you.

MS. KIRSTIN DARR: Thank you, sir.

Juanita. And then Ben Blackhorse.

MS. JUANITA TALLIS: Good morning. My name is Juanita Tallis. I'm from Monument Valley. I work for Peabody as a loader operator. My clan is (Navajo language spoken).

I believe we need to work together and cooperate. I believe we need to have Peabody energy and NGS to continue to operate. The operation between the Peabody Energy and NGS has been going for many years. Peabody Energy has supplied assistance to the Navajo and Hopi tribe. We don't have to travel far to go to work. We provide for our family. Peabody Energy and NGS has provided educational assistance to the Navajo and the Hopi tribes.

That the closure of both companies will impact both tribes and local communities. Working together and cooperating, like from the past year, Peabody Energy and NGS and the owner will all benefit in the future. And we need (Navajo language spoken).

THE INTERPRETER: Joanna. There's been some conflictive. Can you hear me? Conflictive situation among the people here. They tend to talk against each others, and we need to be aware of that. We've also have
ceremonies done to keep our lands healthy, and I think that will continue when we continue the work at the mine and the plant. Those prayers help the people as well as the land. And the other thing related to that is we're losing a lot of our medicine people, or medicine men. But prayer, prayer is a strong element that will keep us going. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you.

Ben, and then Troy Honahnie. Troy? Okay.

MR. BEN BLACKHORSE: (Navajo language spoken.) Good morning, everyone. My name is Ben Blackhorse.

Bureau of Interior, Meyers, Palumbo, thanks for coming down. President Begaye, all my brothers, coal miners. Okay. I live in Kayenta and have worked with Peabody for the past 39 years. I am here to say my part. And I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak about keeping the NGS open, also Kayenta mine.

My family has benefitted from Peabody with having year-round employment, good health insurance, and good pay to help my children prosper in their educational endeavors. This company has served my family well, including others.

Peabody needs to stay open because coal is one of the most important sources of energy for mankind
providing an easy way to generate energy. Coal is a
reliable source of power. Peabody is a source of jobs and
revenue on the Navajo and Hopi reservation.

Peabody is a huge federal energy project that
powers most of the southwest. America gets 40 percent of
its electricity from coal. Australia, China, Germany, are
all preferring the use of coal and is the rising state of
natural gas. Overall, global coal use rose 3 percent last
year faster than any other fossil fuels according to the
statistical review of world energy.

Use of coal for energy has risen last year in
America, Europe, and Asia.

In closing, I will say without coal, it will
not only affect our ways of life here, but it will also
affect our state's economy, other tribes and other NGS
participants. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Okay. Troy, and then Jean Yazzie.

MR. TROY HONAHNIE: Good morning. Before I
begin and make my statement, I want to thank the Department
of Interior, Navajo Nation, President Begaye for allowing
this session to occur this morning.

So I'm going to read a statement that was
prepared.

My name is Troy Honahnie, Jr. And I
currently serve as an assistant and advisor to Chairman Herman Honanie.

I want to thank the Department of Interior.

I want to thank the Department of Interior for hosting this listening session today to discuss the importance of the Navajo Generating Station.

This is a complex issue with many stakeholders, and the Hopi tribe understands and respects that. However, I hope that everyone can understand what is at stake for the Hopi tribe. This is a zero-sum game for the Hopi and without NGS. I'm not sure how we will continue to survive.

The Hopi tribe is economically poor and landlocked tribe with little access to the outside world. Economic development on the Hopi reservation is incredibly difficult due to its remote nature and lack of basic infrastructure. The Hopi reservation suffers from an unemployment rate of over 60 percent.

The only meaningful economic resources available to the Hopi tribe are the vast coal reserves on the reservation. The revenues generated from coal account for almost 85 percent of the Hopi tribe's general fund. Unfortunately the only customer we have access to is NGS. And if it closes, it will be devastating to the Hopi tribe.

President Trump promised to save coal jobs
while also promising to remember Indian Country. The United States owns almost a quarter of NGS. And as an owner of the plant this is the single best opportunity for the administration to keep its word to both Indian Country and coal country.

The federal government has a legally binding trust responsibility to the Hopi tribe because of its status as a federally recognized tribe. The United States Court, Supreme Court, described its obligation in the seminal case when it declared the federal government has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust toward tribal nations.

The trust responsibility is a scared obligation and duty. The federal government trust responsibility to the Hopi tribe in the present situation is heightened because of the nexus of federal ownership of NGS.

Since the federal government is a partial owner of NGS, it cannot blindly agree that the plant should be shuttered for economic reasons. Shutting down NGS requires direct federal action that is in opposition to the trust responsibility owed to the Hopi tribe and the Navajo Nation.

A few facts will illustrate the devastation that the Hopi will suffer from NGS if it is closed. The
Hopi tribe utilizes its coal revenues from Kayenta mine to bolster and supplement the insufficient federal funds we receive to provide essential government services. The Kayenta mine is a primary source of revenue for the operation of the Hopi tribal government, and the primary source of revenue to pay the employees of the Hopi tribe. Loss of revenue from the Kayenta mine will result in a severe curtailment of Hopi governmental functions. Hopi tribal citizens can hardly afford a reduction in governmental services and programs.

The Kayenta mine created approximately 200 million in direct economic benefits in 2015, and over 800 million in direct and indirect benefits.

This includes dollars for royalties, business payments, taxes, water fees, wages and benefits, capital, outside services and scholarships.

The majority of the earned income of Hopi tribal citizens is spent off reservation in the surrounding communities, which will be hard hit by that loss of purchasing power.

These figures illustrate the grim picture that the Hopi tribe and this region faces if NGS closes. NGS is the lifeblood of the economy for the Hopi tribe and the surrounding communities. If NGS closes, everyone in the region will suffer, but few will suffer as much as the
My heart feels strong that so many people have gathered here today to confront this situation to look for common solutions. The Hopi tribe is willing to be a part of that solution.

Thank you for all your time today and for allowing me to make this statement on behalf of the Hopi tribe and its tribal citizens. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

All right. Jean. And then after Jean, is Nathan Gray.

MS. JEAN YAZZIE: Hello. My name is Jean Yazzie.

Good morning. My name is Jean Yazzie. I'm with Peabody. I've been employed 20 years. And I appreciate the opportunity by the Department of Interior, sharing why NGS and Kayenta mine are important to live at the tribe people is.

Many in the state since the plant began operating more than four decades ago, NGS has been serving them power and economic development in energy of the state or local citizen and of Navajo tribe and Hopi.

My concern on this, to keep Peabody and NGS going with revenue to the people, sending students to college, and help community around the Navajo Nation. If
this shut down where are we going to get the same
opportunity. People that live close to the mine has their
home built or been located.

You have your help from the mine. Come on,
give our kids a chance. As for me, I am set up for the
future. We need the same thing so our kids and grandkids
to have the same opportunity. Keep the mine and NGS going.
Think about the solar that are effective in the winter
time. Thank you. Have a good day.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Okay. Nathan, and then Herb Yazzie.

Where's Herb?

MR. NATHAN GRAY: I want to ask you for your
mic. I think your mic's better.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: It's because I have a loud
mouth, and you people don't. And that's why mine's better.

MR. NATHAN GRAY: Hello. My name is Nathan
Gray from Hard Rock, the center of the reservation. I've
been working here for five years now. I work with the
reclamation department. Before I worked with drilling and
shooting.

And I've been in the area for going on 11, 12
years now. And this is home for me. You know, I wouldn't
know how to take it if I had to go find another job
tomorrow. But I would, I would find it. You know, I grew
up around a couple of people that are against the mine, you know. And they know who they are. I grew up around them, like I said, grandfather and grandmother, they're Navajo. And my dad's white. So you know, I like to keep this mine going.

I work in reclamation, so I know how the land is reclaimed, and it's reclaimed in the right manner. It does take a lot of technique, learning how to run different types of equipment and knowing what to do. But if you don't know what you're doing, why speak against it?

(Navajo language spoken.)

You know there's ways (Navajo language spoken).

MS. KRISTIN DARR: That's three minutes.

MR. NATHAN GRAY: Thank you. Pardon me.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: No, no, no. That's fine.

Thank you.

Joanna, was there anything to add?

THE INTERPRETER: In the Navajo way, the teachings are you have to take it upon yourself to do it. That's the teaching of my grandfather and my grandmother. So we have to take it upon ourselves to work at these complex issues.

Let's not come against each others. You have to go out there, get the job. The job will strengthen you
and stabilize you. Some don't think that way. I think he said Cactus Valley -- and I didn't get the rest of it.

Water is there. Water is available. So take it upon yourself.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.
Herb Yazzie? Where's Herb?
Oh, there you are. And then Steven Tallas.

Steven? Okay.

MR. HERB YAZZIE: (Navajo language spoken.)

Your first responsibility is the safety of your citizens. That's your first responsibility. We keep telling you, we are dying from this. It's been over 50 years. Assume your responsibility.

There was a phrase used this morning of moral responsibility of the highest order. Well, you need to take that to heart on behalf of the residents. That's your responsibility. We all know from the very start this whole operation, the destruction of Black Mesa was for the benefit of other people, not the Navajo people.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: And that's three minutes.

MR. HERB YAZZIE: The last point I want to make is: This morning, last night, tonight, there will be prayers said. There will be songs sung, sacred songs, sacred prayers, and they will all say Mother Earth, Father Sky.
This blessing that we have is pursuant to immutable laws. And we have desecrated the earth all contrary to these immutable laws. Now we hear the scientific community telling us it's a matter of fact, it's true, it's here. There's global warming. It is effecting not just the Navajo people, but everybody.

And it's our moral obligation to not participate, further participate in the destruction of Mother Earth and the violation of our traditional laws.

Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Joanna, was there anything to add?

THE INTERPRETER: I want to thank all of you that have gathered here and greet you as you have come here to listen to the comments.

I'm concerned. There are two areas of my concern. The first one is, it was mentioned the year of 1969. But it was earlier than that in the early '60s that communities started suffering. That's 50 years ago now. People were struggling, suffering from health ailment and health issues.

The mining has health effects, health issues associated with the mining. Many of our children have been affected, slowing dying and passing on. 50 years of unfulfilled promises of our people. Thank you.
MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you.

Steven, and then Leonard Bail, Baile? Okay.

MR. STEVEN TALLAS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Steven Tallas. I'm from Rough Rock, Arizona. I'm a recent graduate from NAU environmental engineering, and currently I work at Peabody as an environmental scientist for a year and a half.

And I want to share three points on why NGS should be operational. I just want to start off, and I just want to say I'm an active environmentalist. I love the environment. I went to NAU, and I know a lot about it, the science behind it. And one of my points is, is reclamation at the mine -- reclamation is amazing. Oh, my goodness. I wish I could take you all over there right now to see the vast grass and the animals and wildlife.

There is so much that's going into it right now. And last week I planted over, like, 20 trees. I mean, it's active and it's -- and if I could bring a sheep here who grazes on there to testify and how good and lush that reclamation is, I would, but I can't.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sheep don't talk.

MR. STEVEN TALLAS: That's one of the points.

Second point is jobs for recent graduates. So Navajo Nation tells us young guys, yeah, go out there and get an education and come back to the Navajo Nation for
jobs, but in many cases that's not the case. I was
grateful enough to land a good environmental engineering
job with Peabody, and been working for a year and a half
and learning a lot of -- a lot of good information.

And most of any peers where I graduated with
can't say the same. They ended up in, like, Cincinnati,
Ohio; Texas; Oklahoma. And they live in Navajo Nation, and
they want to come home, but there's no jobs. And NGS and
Peabody provides that opportunity for us to come back home
and be with our grandparents and be with our little
brothers and just be in our homeland. And that's the
second point.

And the third point that I want to share is
the economic benefits to the entire nation.

So each and every one of us at NGS/Peabody,
we have family members and extended family and family,
like, I have my little brothers, mom, parents, and we all
support them. And so it's just not going to affect that --
the 365. It's going to affect -- and it's going to be
thousands. And I suggest that we should keep it going and
keep the jobs and the economy running. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

If I stand up, that means you've got 30
seconds left. I'm going to give you that hint now on the
last day. That's what that means. Okay.
Leonard and then Edward Dee. Okay.

MR. LEONARD BAILE: Good morning. My name is Leonard Baile, and I'm on the (Navajo language spoken).

NGS and Peabody Western Coal Company and employees provided energy resource to the whole southwest United States over four decades. In support continuation of NGS and Peabody Western Coal, the beneficial through economic stability to federal -- federal funds, state funds, tribal nations, governmental funds through revenues. Disruption to closure of NGS will cripple, demoralize everybody that benefits, from newborn to elderlies.

As an employee for the Peabody Western Coal Company going on 43 years, we contribute over a hundred thousand dollars plus to workers, our communities, schools, chapters, educational trip for our children, individuals throughout the world. And it goes on.

Speaking of contribution, recently we contributed to one of -- a family in New Mexico. I'd just like to address this and communicate it to you -- this is back in September 10, 2016, prior to the peacemaking -- regarding to a dysfunctional family, daily livelihood, the article is about the family and domestic violence involving one family.

The Navajo Nation traditional court system and peacemaking program became involved to resolve, mend
domestic conflicts within the household to restore harmony, life values, engagement to identity, pride and cultural standards. The photos in the newspaper, an adolescent sitting on a wood carpenter sawhorse with a plastic steer roping horse -- I mean, steer roping they had attached, mending his cowboy boots with a hay twine.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: And that's three minutes.

MR. LEONARD BAILE: Through emotional and disturbing. So this prompted a caring group of coal miners to offer the contribution to this circumstance, the individuals of employees from Peabody Western Coal Mine miners, members of the United Mineworkers contributed to this. So these type of contributions that we deal with.

And also in closing, we encourage the Navajo Nation leaders to approve -- to approve NGS up to 2044. That was the goal set back in 1969. And, therefore, the goal set for the life of the mine is 2044. As president, United States President, President Obama, in his state of the union address to anybody for innovation in technology, the technology which is our students that we're trying to be involved in. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

I'm just trying to be fair. So work with me here.

Edward Dee, and then Jessie Chief. Got you.
Okay.

MR. EDWARD DEE: Good morning. Good morning.

Thank you to the Department of Interior, office of the president the vice-president, and President Begaye. Thank you. I'd like to have -- in three minutes I would like to make three objectives with the audience in mind.

The first is I want to reference the press release from May 10th, 2017, from the Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis that basically said this -- I'm sure some of you have read this, and that is this: Basically, the title of the report is, "End of an Era for Navajo Generating Station," vast subsidies would be required to keep the aging plant online. The question is this: Who, whether it be the federal government, the Navajo Nation, certainly not an NGO, but who has that type of money?

The projection between 2017 and 2019 is $414 million. So who's going to pay that? That's question one.

And if the lease is extended to 2029 or 2030, the projections there is 2. -- just right around $2 billion, $2 billion and 20 million, I believe it is. Who's paying for that? Where is that money coming from? So that's covering both one and two here, with my audience in mind, of DOI and Navajo Nation.
Secondly, what I have in mind is this: A lot of the speakers here from the mine. The communities up by Black Mesa, Kayenta and surrounding area. So it kind of comes to mind that the adaptive cycle, this is basically through resiliency theory called the Dynamics of Ecosystem. So there goes through a period, whether it be nature, society, culture, what have you. We all go through this cycle. One is we go through an exploitation cycle, conservation, release, and then reorganization.

And so I can't help but think that we have to think in that regard to say, hey, the life of the mine is coming to an end. We realize that the ongoing exploitation of natural resources, the extraction of it has had its time and days to think outside that track, outside that mine. And so I think that's basically something that the entire nation as a whole, Navajo Nation, with all its residency in place, we need to think along that path.

I say that because of my past and my background is on sustainability. I'm a Ph.D. candidate from Arizona State University, as well as employed with Navajo Nation through the office of government development. So I think this is the time. This is a critical time, using that resiliency theory where, hey, we've exploited it. It's -- now, we went through conservation period, it's crashing on us right now, folks. We're going through that
release cycle.

So go ahead Google it. It's resiliency theory. It's a system that goes like a figure eight. So it's just something that's studied. And it's something that's real nature and society Ecosystem.

And thank you for your point and time.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you, sir.

Jessie Chief, and then Darrell Tso. Darrell.

MR. JESSIE CHIEF: Good morning. First of all, before I begin to speak, I'd like to thank the DOI and then also the Navajo tribe.

At the beginning of the year, there was -- all of the stockholders got together and they sat down, and the plan was to go ahead and shut down. And thank you for voting no and also for the Navajo tribe, thank you for voting no that we today that we are still working.

And three minutes that is very little time. You know, earlier there was an individual that brought up a rubber stamp. This is a rubber stamp. You know, I wish we could sit down and smoke a peace pipe and talk about this.

I am a dozer operator. And I'm glad and I am happy to say I don't have a bachelor's degrees. I don't have a master's degree. But one thing that I can say is I can master million dollars of equipment along with all of my coworkers here, they master in what they do and who they
And then falling short of my degree, you know, I am a full-blooded Navajo, a registered Navajo voter. And then also a voter for the United States. And then as a miner, I look at myself as an orphan to my tribe, a stepchild to my tribe.

Through that everything that is trickling me from the federal government and everything that the tribe offers, the scholarship, the financial assistance, the emergency fund, et cetera, us miners we are denied from all those programs.

So again, I am happy to say that it is this ten finger that struggle that has made all this possible along with my coworkers here. That it was us. It was these people. They are resilient, and they are dedicated. And these guys, my coworkers, are the ones that got up in the morning, and those are the guys that are dedicated that kept Americans lit.

And I am proud to say this. And then because of my affiliation with the UMWA, I am happy to say, we sat across the table. It was us bargaining, negotiating. And through that, I am happy to say that amount of pay, I am happy to scale, and the comfortable vacation. And then the pension plan, and then also comfortable, very comfortable with the hundred percent medical plan that, you know, we
enjoy all that.

And I see that she got up again. So to make this thing -- shorten it up, you know, the closure of this, it's going to be very devastating if we close the NGS. So one point that I want to go ahead and stress is, since the other stockholders are going to be bailing out or they're going to say turn their back on us, you know, the Navajo tribe, especially Interior or Department of Reclamation, you guys take the rest of the pie.

So it cannot be only 2019, but to 2044. And thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Darrell, and then Patricia Osif.

Patricia? There you are. Okay.

MR. DARRELL TSO: (Navajo language spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you. For those of you who've come in since the beginning, I want to remind you that our Navajo interpreter is interpreting, not translating. So it's just a summary. It's not a word-for-word translation. We'll go back to the transcripts and do the word-for-word. And that's just in the interest of time.

So, Joanna.

THE INTERPRETER: (Navajo language spoken.)

The topic that's before us today is something that's very
complex. I want to thank the people that work for the Peabody Coal Company who have contributed a lot to the community, for example, the chapter houses. They contribute funds to the programs like the elderly program, the veterans program. And we are very thankful for that.

What other funding will we get? There are no other fundings.

Many years ago there was talk about continuing the operation of Mohave Generating Station. And that went -- that went and shut down the plant. There is nothing there. As a sovereign nation, we have had a lot of opportunities.

And people now are waiting to see what will happen. People from the outside are waiting to see what will happen to NGS. What will happen to the Navajo Nation? How will they handle the impacts? And many other obstacle that relates to the shutdown or the closure of the mines.

I have a good education, but I don't work for the tribe or the community. I am an activist who speak on behalf of my people. I took that job because I want to protect my people, to show them what is really out there.

I also want to thank President Begaye for sitting here and listening to us. Your job as well is to protect the Navajo people. Do not let the outside community sway you from that path.
I remember my relatives because I've relocated to (native language spoken).

I have relatives up there that continue to work for the plant and the mine. The strength of the Navajo and Hopi Nation have been divided. We need to bring those two tribes back together for its strength.

This issue is very complex. Therefore, needs the strength of both nations to continue on, to make the best possible decisions, to strategize, to continue the programs, and to continue the operation of the mine and the plant. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Okay. Next is Patricia, and then Murphy Oliver. Murphy?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Murphy's going to turn it down, because of his throat.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Murphy's got a sore throat.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Laryngitis.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Laryngitis. Okay. So then after Patricia is Virginia Moore. Okay.

MS. PATRICIA OSIF: Good morning. Thank you for having these hearings. My clan is one who walks around. I'm born for bitter water. My maternal clan is deer water, and my paternal is three people clan
(phonetic).

I work for the school, and I understand that majority of these people that are talking are from Peabody Coal. But for me, I work for the school. I work in the career technical education department. And I work with programs that are welding, agriculture, software development, construction, early childhood education, marketing, business, nursing. And there are other programs at Monument Valley High School.

These programs that I work with assist many families in our department. For example, agriculture, we help the people of our communities to work with the community with their animals and to give them vaccinations.

If this SRP is shut down, it's going to be a great impact on our school district. Also, if this hearing was advertised, the school district, the majority of the teachers, the students would be here today.

I want to know -- let you know that the funds that are provided directly from the union members, Peabody they help the school district as far as what Mr. Baile talked about.

And this session would have been, like I said, very impact with teaches, staff members, everybody from our community and not just our communities, it would be the surrounding communities of Chilchinbeto, Monument
Valley. This decision that you are going to make is going
to really impact on our future.

Please consider our students at Monument
Valley High School and surrounding schools. I appreciate
you for allowing me to talk. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Okay. Virginia, and then Gwen Cody.

MS. VIRGINIA MOORE: Good morning, everybody.
(Native language spoken.)

I also work for the Department of Interior,
but I'm not here as a representative of the Interior. I am
here as a Navajo citizen in concern. I used to work for
the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, and I used to
be their -- to do a lot of financial analysis. I work as a
financial analyst and a rates analyst, establishing utility
rates.

In order to establish utility rates, you have
to do a lot of study. And we did the cost of service
study. What does it cost to serve a residential customer?
What does it cost to serve commercial customer and
industrial customer?

The utilities rates into in NTUA is known to
have the lowest residential utility rate in the area.
Because I work with other utilities in the area to see what
our rates were compared to theirs.
So what I want to point out is that NGS and the Kayenta mine are the large power users. And when you look at the cost to serve the different customer classes, NGS/Kayenta mine, the industrial customers cover the cost for a lot of other customer classes. So there's that subsidization.

So if NGS closes, Kayenta mine closes, the large power users are gone. The revenue is gone, the subsidization goes away, and that could mean utility rate increases for everybody, even the people that oppose it and their families. So you need to think about this.

It's going to affect the utility rates. It may not happen immediately, but it could happen. It could lead to that if NGS is closed.

And we need to be thinking about elders that are fixed income. It's going to affect their utility rates too. It will affect businesses, the commercial customers, but businesses just pass that on to the customers. So we're going to be impacted in many ways. It's going to affect, impact everybody, not just the workers and their families. Thank you very much.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Gwen, and then Crystal Tulley-Cordova.

Crystal?

MS. GWEN CODY: Good morning. My name is
Gwen Cody. I'm with Northern Arizona University out of Flagstaff. And I want to thank you all for being here and taking part in this listening session. It's great that we have this opportunity to speak our concern.

I'm actually here on behalf of our Native American students who attend NAU, and I want to thank Steven Tallas for speaking on behalf of his peers.

We have here -- I'm also with the Franke College of Business School. We have received about 79 Navajo students who have taken or received scholarships through our Johnson Scholarship Foundation to attend the business -- to get business degrees. And so that when they graduate, they can come back to their nation, to Navajo Nation, and -- to work on the nation.

And with NGS shutting down, that's -- there's going to be no opportunity for them. And I'm not just speaking for Navajo. I'm speaking also for the Hopi students too. And we have a large percentage of Navajo students and Hopi students who attend NAU, and also ASU and U of A.

But for those students, you know, they want to come home. And I have a son who graduated -- graduated from NAU as well, and he works at Peabody Coal. And he has an engineering degree as well. And, you know, this was an opportunity for him to come back to the nation and work for
the Nation if that shuts down as well, you know. He's
going to have to take his family elsewhere.

And I also speak for the families. A lot of
men and women here who are main providers for their family.
If NGS shuts down, then they have to go outside of the
Navajo Nation and seek work leaving their families behind.
I've seen it. I grew up in LeChee chapter. That's where I
grew up, I went to school at Page High School. I've seen
that when folks cannot get a job, they have to leave the
Navajo Nation or they have to leave their town to find work
that can -- that they can have enough money to support
their families.

That's just what I wanted to say. You know,
we have -- I'm speaking for our students, our Navajo
students, our Hopi students that have to come back to the
reservation and they want to come back and work for their
nation. They want to come back and work for their people.
And, you know, we cannot -- we cannot allow this to happen
because this will devastate everybody. And I just want to
thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Crystal, and then Joe.

MS. CRYSTAL TULLEY-CORDOVA: (Navajo language
spoken.)

Hi. I'm a student at the University of Utah.
I'm a Ph.D. student there. I'm currently home because I'm conducting research on the Navajo Nation related to water across the Navajo Nation.

And I come to you today with the understanding of economics and our current state of economics within the United States and also the Navajo Nation. With that understanding, knowing the inevitable future of resource extraction and being able to understand that coal is a finite resource, and so when NGS closes down is an un-estimated time of when that would occur, whether it be 2019 or later on in the future.

But what I am here to advocate for is for basic understanding that Department of Interior would understand that the water rights that are there from the aquifer as well as the Colorado River should remain with the Navajo Nation. And to be able to have a smooth transition on the western side of the Navajo Nation, there's a lot of homes without running water. And so as that occurs, we need to have water that is good water for those communities that live in that area.

And I also advocate on behalf of having a smooth transition with environmental cleanup. For many times we haven't had environmental cleanup that has been done in a sound way, especially with the Department of Interior acting on our behalf. We need to be to have
quality assurance and quality check because we want be able to have an area that is there like similar to when before NGS was there.

And so to be able to have that would be great for our people. And not only that, we need to have a smooth transition for all the many workers that have worked there for decades. Some people have worked there for a few years, but I know many people, Navajo people, who have dedicated their lives to NGS.

And we need to have a smooth transition for those people who have worked there, but also for their families. And to be able to have a smooth transition, would be able to benefit everyone, especially the economy of the Navajo Nation.

So I talk to you today to be able to have those things in mind, to be able to think about the water, to think about the environment, but to also think about the people now but also in the future. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you.

Joe Malala; is that right? Because I was going to say I knew who you were. I remember you.

Melvin Taylor will be next.

MR. JOE MALALA: Good morning, everybody.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Good morning.

MR. JOE MALALA: My name is Joe Malala, and I
work for Peabody Coal. I'm a heavy equipment mechanic, and
a little story about myself. That's why my last name is
Malala, because I'm originally from the island of Samoa.
And when I was young in the island, we had big engines that
drive generators, and that's how we make our utilities.
There was no solar introduced. There was no wind. But I'm
sure there's a lot of wind over there, but it was the
engine that drives the generators to make utility for the
island.

So when I grew up, I was raised by the old
people. So I know how to raise livestock. I farmed the
lands. I grew a lot of bananas and coconuts when I was
growing up. So it's no different from what you guys do out
here. Sheep, to this day, I'm an in-law to Kayenta.

But when I walk out of the airplane, all I
want to do is find an education. That's what I'm teaching
my kids today. Grew up. Learn something, learn a trade,
learn whatever you want to learn. By the end of the day,
you want to transfer that education and that knowledge that
you were taught 18 years of your lives from your parents,
from your teachers, whoever, the church, tradition,
whatever. I grew up the same way.

By the end of the day, you got to transfer
all of that to find a job, to make a living. And then with
NGS close, and the mine going to go follow that, there goes
all the jobs.

How are we going to provide for our family now? How can we say, "Let's go here and here"? By the end of the day, we're going to travel away to find jobs. There's nobody going to make a living sitting on the couch at home or sitting under a tree. At the end of the day, either we're dealing with livestock or we're dealing with farming, at the end of the day, we were working.

I work at the solar. I work at the coal. I work at all the other mines. At the end of the day, we need all this energy.

Look how many of us in here. We all need light. We all need water. At the end of the day, we want to lead the easy life, not the hard like the old days. We're living today and tomorrow and our kids would do the same.

So it's just a little message. Take it to consideration. Thank you to the Department of the Interior for your time and thank everybody and the coal miners. I'm here with you all the way until we find a better solution. We're good to go. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Melvin Taylor, and then Allen Martin. Allen Martin.

MR. MELVIN TAYLOR: I was busy talking to one of my old friends over there. I lost my other notes the
other day, so I've got to make a new one today.

My name is Melvin Taylor, and I've been employed at Peabody and Kayenta mine for the past four years, but I have been in the coal mining industry for 35 years. I hope to make it longer in one area and not have to travel.

As natives on the reservation, we are wards of the government, which means the government has stewardship for us and is supposed to be looking over our best benefits.

A short quote by Thomas Jefferson: "All men are created equally in the pursuit of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness."

This may be true for most of America, except in this Third World country, as I call it, the reservation. I am privileged to work for Peabody Coal. That has afforded me to pursue what Thomas Jefferson had quoted. Because owners of natural -- Navajo Generating Station did not meet their profit margin because of natural gas in other power plants, they decided to disrupt the pursuit of happiness.

As Hopi Chairman Honanie stated, there is a human factor and economic factor. Human factors such as daily livelihood are local government concerns, electricity, water, livestock, et cetera. Economic factor,
the economic factor is the disruption of the southwest, it will affect Northern Arizona to central Arizona. It will affect the Navajo Nation by about 22 to 25 percent. The Hopi tribe will be affected by approximately 85 percent.

The Navajo tribal workers will be affected like back in 2009, 2012, when the McKinley mine closed, the Navajo tribe was probably affected by about 36 million back then. Then back then we asked the tribal officials for help, but no help was given. I don't think the council members were affected.

Since this listening session has gone on, I've only heard from one council member from LeChee. If the council members livelihood were to be affected, I bet you would see them here and hear from them, but they're not. I wish they could have listened to all the pros and cons of this session.

There are many concerns. There are many numbers and graphs and statistic studies that have been brought up. But all those statistic studies and concerns will mean nothing because more people will leave the reservation.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: We're at three minutes, Melvin.

MR. MELVIN TAYLOR: Okay. I'm a proud worker at Peabody. I'm a laborer, a vehicle equipment operator,
EMT, high angle rescue rope worker, and a firefighter. And to have all the tax dollars leave the reservation in Arizona, the rest of us will have to start hunting jobs again, and we will help other parts of the United States with their taxes and revenues.

So we'd like to keep our revenues pretty much close to the reservation to help all the economics of the reservation. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.


I think we're going to have to raise this one up. What do you guys think?

MR. ALLEN MARTIN: Testing, testing, one, two three. Go, go, go, go.

Welcome, Washington people, state people, and reservation Indian nation leaders and people, and all of us here.

In the constitution it says, "We, the people," but that does not apply to the Indian Nation. We are neglected afterthoughts. The Washington people, they have made the laws to benefit them, to benefit the mainstream society. They gave us this land here as a wasteland. But in the end, it was diamond country here. It was rich with coal, with oil, with uranium, with water.
They didn't see that. Now they want to take that from us. And that's why I came here as a concern.

We have two mothers. Our born mother that borne us, to teach us, raise us. And then our other mother is Mother Earth like the say, it gave us -- you give us heat. You give us coal. You give us our natural things, the water, the rain, and it provides for us. That's why we call it Mother Nature.

And we -- we are all in this together as one people, supposed to be. But through education, my people, my Indian people, from our work, from Salt River, from K mine, we can educate our people to make things right for the laws that they've made for themselves to benefit them. And we're at that state where we are now. They have awakened the sleeping giant, just like the Japanese said.

And through education, we can get what we need, what we want. And we're not feeling sorry for ourselves, because we are -- we are indigenous people, and we're self-sufficient, self-determined and self-motivated to be -- raise a family to be -- to stand proud. And SRP and K mine, they're one, and one can't go without the other one, and we want to keep going.

And then there's also human rights here, too. We have a right just like white people, black people, yellow people; if they have green people, they have a
right, too. And just like we want to exercise that to enjoy the American dreams from our jobs. And we want Salt River and K mine to keep going.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: And that's three minutes.

MR. ALLEN MARTIN: Three minutes. Okay. All this that the laws were made, were broken treaties and broken promises and broken contracts, and we want to make it right for us. And also at the last, keep it open, so we can educate our people, so we can fight our fight.

I know that in a war situation, there's going to be casualties, and this is what we're talking about. We're feeling sorry for our casualty, but we walk with a proud, stand up, right people.

And I encourage my people to go forth and be -- have determination, be self-sufficient, and be motivated as a positive influence for my concern. Thank you very much. And my name is Allen Martin. I'm a Peabody person, and I'm a union person, UMWA, right here, and I'm proud of it. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you.

Nathaniel Brown, then Marie Shepherd.

MR. NATHANIEL BROWN: (Native language spoken.)

Kayenta, Chilchinbeto, and Dennehotso are the communities that I represent. I'm the elected 23rd Navajo
Nation council. My community of Kayenta and Chilchinbeto are directly impacted in so many different ways. Representing these communities and the surrounding areas, I sit on the health and education and human services committee as well as many other committees.

So obviously, we travel to D.C. a lot lobbying for any type of economic development and self sustainability. And I think we try to do this to the best of our abilities, keeping in mind, we as Diné people, were the (native language spoken) Diné individuals (native language spoken) people. And doing this, securing our language.

And I think I have families, I still have families that work there. I have family who have land that are around Peabody on the Kayenta mine, and the old Black Mesa mine.

So my family, they graze up there. We go up there and make firewood, medicinal plants.

And I would like to applaud Peabody, their reclamation, for doing their job in helping us and my family to secure a lot of these areas. Right now we have our cows up there, and they're fenced off, and they're protected. So we moved them.

But I'm looking at some of those things. The other -- talking to the mineworkers and talking to some of
the grassroots individuals, I'm hearing a lot of good
tings. I'd like to hear both sides. And it's really
important, especially being a representative for Kayenta,
Chilchinbeto, and Dennehotso. And the majority of the
people that we have talked to are families, not directly
individuals that work there, but maybe parents,
grandparents, children, grandchildren of a Peabody
employee.

It's not just the nation that benefits from
the mine. It's actually the kids, including myself, and my
nieces and nephews that have gone to college. And I think
because of Peabody and NGS, we are able to stand here with
education, with career background.

So that's what I'm looking at. And I'm
looking directly -- I've talked to many people right now
living in the community that I live in Kayenta. So I was
raised in Kayenta. I went to school there. And Black Mesa
is my backyard also. I've climbed the rocks there. We
have helped farming, so -- (native language spoken.)

But on behalf of the nation and our people,
the other thing that I would implore to Peabody and the
reclamation is our cultural sites that we stand behind in
the preservation of protecting our sacred sites, and some
of those areas where we give our offering because our
people still do that.
So as long as we have that oversight. And I think with Peabody/NGS, being in my position, getting constant reports, we get privileged information that I'm comfortable with all the checks and balances that are happening. So (native language spoken).

And then the other big thing, my last point would be, how many families will be impacted? How many families will be directly impacted. And then down the line when the father or the mother has to leave for a job away from the Navajo Nation. So (native language spoken).

With 70 plus percent unemployment rate on the Navajo Nation, this is going to be impacting. So I'm glad that we have President Begaye here with us. We have numerous leadership. We have some Arizona state senators here with us.

(Native language spoken.)

Thank you for being here.

(Native language spoken.)

THE INTERPRETER: We have a lot of individual projects that we tend to. Those are our projects as individuals. And activities that go along with keeping up with the activities and the projects, but we're not losing those.

One of my main concerns is water, the study of water, quality water versus contaminated water, and the
vegetation.

Are there studies being made on the vegetation surrounding the mine?

I believe that they have a good reclamation monitoring program, because we toured that area where it was -- where the land was reclaimed. They do a good job of reclaiming the land up there along with the monitoring program.

Recently I was in Phoenix area, and I came upon a copper mine. The copper mine area was very disturbed.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Excuse me. Hey, folks, can we be respectful and listen? Okay. Thank you.

THE INTERPRETER: The land was not properly reclaimed. You could see only the stumps and the vegetation sparsely in the area. So I feel that our reclamation, our mining reclamation program is better than what I saw down in Phoenix. Let's see -- I think he went on from sacred sites.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you. And thank you all. It gets very hard to hear when people are talking, so maybe take it outside. And thank you for being nice to me.

The next speaker is Marie Shepherd followed by Earl Tulley. Where is Earl?
Tulley. Okay. I'm sorry. Just so I know where you are.

You have the mic. Okay. I forget.

MS. MARIE SHEPHERD: (Native language spoken.)

Thank you for the department to having this listening session. Mr. President, Navajo Nation, and all the rest of the constituents here, that are here.

I'm going to talk a little bit about our activities at Peabody. So I worked for Peabody for five years as an environmental manager. Prior to that, I've worked at McKinley mine for 17 years.

I'm going to talk in Navajo primary, talk about what I'm involved in at the mine.

(Navajo language spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: We're at three minutes.

MS. MARIE SHEPHERD: (Navajo language spoken.)

Thank you for listening to us.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you, Marie.

THE INTERPRETER: Greetings and introduced by clan. She's from the Ganado area. Thank you to DOI for the listening session here.

I've been working with the Peabody Western Coal for five years. I've also worked with the McKinley
mine for 17 years as an environmental manager. I would
like to say this piece in the Navajo language.

I have oversight on the reclamation program.
We have -- we have a monitoring program that is in place
just like -- I can't read my own writing.

There are a lot of rules and a lot of
regulations that we have to comply with. The way we
reclaim the area is we start with refilling the large
holes, and then we cover the spoils, covering with topsoil.
And we don't just do this the way we think we should do it.
There are rules and guidelines that we have to follow.

For example, the species in the area,
vegetation species have to be similar to what was there
before. The topography has to be the same that was in the
area. We have to replant trees, and it's a lot of work.
We replant shrubs, and we have to monitor the air, the
water and other species. For example, livestock grazing is
an activity that we monitor. We have to make checks on the
elks and the deer that graze there as well. This is my
oversight of the program.

We don't just -- in the mining activities, we
don't just dig just to dig the coal out. We have to have a
permit, which is critical in the mining area or in the mine
lands that are to be mined.

This is what I want you to understand because
there are a lot of activities that go into reclaiming the land as well as mining. You don't just do what you want to do outside the laws.

We have a lot of native people working there. We also got more native graduate students. So I'm very happy that I had the opportunity to work with the mines that I've worked with. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Mr. Tulley.

Earl Tulley followed by Robyn Jackson.


MR. EARL TULHY: Good morning. I'll make my comments in English. And one of the first factors that I do have is that the time for this particular activity, the time started back in 1969. We knew that there would be a game ending time. And here we are at the two-minute warning basically wondering what we're going to do. What is the strategy that's going to be taking place.

But the use life of the mine as well as the plant was already set. And the first order that was executed from Navajo Nation in the form of legislation of the Navajo Tribal Council was issued December 11th, 1969. And that is very, very important. And during that particular time, we all had the opportunity to make a plan as to what was going to happen when the sun did set on us. And that's very, very important.
I'm here to share as to what does not happen if you do not have a plan.

What does not happen is the legacy of uranium here on the Navajo Nation. There was no exit plan. There was no plan established as to what type of reclamation would be done. And, likewise, if there was a mass exodus of the plant as well as the mine. Navajo Nation is going to be saddled with what do you do.

How did you take care of the areas that have been disturbed? There is mention, get it back as close as possible to the existing conditions. You can't reestablish what was existing. Mother Nature only has one particular plan, and once we disturb that, we cannot get it back to what it originally was.

So what we have to do is have a particular plan. Not only how the economic impact is going to happen on this particular region, but we have to understand what about the health impacts of the workers, of the community members, and then also those that are nonhuman as well, the vegetation and the wildlife that is out there. How much of that have we disturbed, and also the aquifers as well.

One of the areas that I believe that is really, really important for us to understand is is that what is going to be the price that Peabody mine and Navajo Generating Station and its partners, what is their
contribution going to be?

And that is something that is really, really
vital for us to understand is to understand what that exit
plan is going to be? How do we train the workers that are
presently there? How can they get a new job and, perhaps,
get a severance package for those that are currently
employed. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

We have some folks join us. I just want to
do a check. We've got one hour left. I have more cards
than we can accommodate in an hour. So that's why we're
keeping the comments to three minutes, and be fair to
everybody who's spoken up until now.

Robyn Jackson. And when I stand up that
means you've got 30 seconds left, for those of you who are
new to the process. These guys know. Okay.

MS. ROBYN JACKSON: (Navajo language spoken.)

I am from Wheatfields, Arizona. And this is
I appreciate the Bureau of Reclamation putting this on.

Really what I want to say are just the main points that, as
a young person, I am concerned about the future of our
land. I'm tired of the history of exploitation that has
gone on with our natural resources and with our people.

And if you look at what's going on, if you
pay attention to what's going on, you can see that there is
this economic reality of natural gas being cheaper, and
that's why the utility owners have abandoned Navajo
Generating Station. That's why they are abandoning coal.
That's what's going on. There are a number of power plants
throughout the southwest in the area that are closing down,
a lot of units have already shut down from a lot of local
power plant.

So I really would encourage everyone to
understand this and to just figure out a way to deal with
this reality. And also there is this worry that not enough
people are taking part in dealing with, and this is climate
change.

And we in the southwest have to take care of
our water. There's a whole history of with NGS and Peabody
mine taking water from the Navajo aquifer and the Colorado
River. And the climate change we're going to have to deal
with water scarcity, water contamination.

The man who spoke before me talking about all
the abandoned uranium mines, and then there's the Black
Mesa pipeline that still needs to be reclaimed, clean up on
the Navajo portion.

So we really have to just deal with this, all
these realities and figure out the best way for our people
to go forward. We need to invest and start building
renewable energy. The Navajo people really need that
access to the transmission lines so that they can do that.

After years of exploitation, the utility owners really need
to work with our people on this.

And also after decades, 50 years of the mine
and power plant, there's a lot of pollutants, contamination
that has happened to the air and to the water. And there
really should be some type of health compensation for these
communities. Additionally, we should look at retirement
and health benefits packages to the people who worked at
these places.

So my big concern is clean up. Black Mesa
mine hasn't been fully reclaimed on the Navajo portion.
And I -- I don't know what's going to go on with SRP and
the Navajo Nation, but we need to deal with really what's
going on and find out the best way to move forward. So
those would be my comments. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Three minutes on the dot.

She's good. Okay.

The next speaker is Adella Begaye followed by
Lori Goodman.

And again, we're giving priority to speakers
who have not yet spoken to us this week. Okay.

Is that too tall for you, because my
technical support there, Marie, can help you. There you
go. All right.
MS. ADELLA BEGAYE: Okay. My name is Adella Begaye. I'm from Wheatfields, Arizona. I just want to let people know that this is all about money, all about economy. And coal is costly, so that's why it's going out. And we need to as the workers and also our leadership, they need to have a vision beyond their outstretched hand. They need a vision to see after it closed down, that we need our land reclaimed. We need our water reclaimed. We need -- a lot of these things that have been destroyed and have been contaminated, we need it to be put back at the best so we can have our future generations, the miners' children, our children, our grandchildren, the miners' children, what are you going to leave them with?

I know money is great right now, but there are people out there that I know I'm speaking for. People that live out in the communities that cannot -- they don't have the luxury of coming in on a bus at their employer's expenses.

I know I'm voicing -- I have a voice for them to say, we want to get our land back and have the coal mine closed so we can transition to renewable energy. And renewable energy is the answer because the whole world, that's where it's turning. And we need to look beyond, you know, our outstretched hand and look into the 50, 20 years
down the road, even a hundred, 500 years down the road.

Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you. Okay.

MS. LORI GOODMAN: Hi. My name is Lori Goodman, and I'm Dilkon Chapter voter.

And I want to talk about why NGS is closing and has to close. It is not the environmentalists that are doing this. It is not the EPA environmental regulation that's doing this. It is all about money. NGS is not competitive in the declining energy market. It does not make any economic sense for SRP and CAP to continue paying for more cost of electricity from NGS where there are cheaper sources elsewhere.

And we all remember -- we went through these meetings just a couple of years ago where SRP, NGS was begging, begging to keep NGS open through 2044. Well, what happened? The market for coal dropped. And the first thing they did was, we got to get out of here now. And so that is what's happening.

SRP owns 42.9 percent; Bureau of Reclamation, 24.3; APS, 14 percent; Nevada Power, 11.3; and Tucson Electric, 7.5. So for those that are saying this is environmentalists that want to shut this down, no. These people are losing money, and they want it stopped. They want to stop the bleeding.
First and foremost, it needs to make economic sense to them. Right now in 2016 CAP and SRP state they paid 38.5 million more for electricity from NGS. And that is what this is all about. And if we want to keep NGS open from 2019 and beyond like we are hearing, there will be additional expenses.

That would mean pollution control would have to kick in. And we're talking millions of dollars more to meet the regional haze air pollution rules. As of now, NGS is just producing 60 percent of their 2,250 megawatts. And they're not even running full right.

So to keep NGS open, it would cost from 2017 to 2019, $414 million. From mid 2017 to 2022, like being spoken of, at some place, 740 million to $1 billion. And those are numbers from the Arizona Corporate Commission giving those numbers.

So to make it work, to keep NGS open, Navajo Nation would have to give the coal for free, and that is not going to happen. We have to be thinking about our future. The future generation. And we cannot, absolutely cannot dip into the permanent trust fund. That would be absolutely a horrible thing to do. So thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Speaker Bates.

And just so you all know, I'm not going to
cut off your elected officials at three minutes. I wouldn't feel comfortable doing that. I'm sure they want to hear from you, so everybody keep their comments brief. So you go for it.

SPEAKER LORENZO BATES: Usually we get five minutes, and I'm used to five minutes. But being speaker, five minutes doesn't apply to the speaker.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: I noticed.

SPEAKER LORENZO BATES: Mr. President, good morning, sir. (Native language spoken.) I represent the other side of the mountain. Okay? Well, I appreciate the hearings that you have had up to this point. But the purpose of me coming up here is to enlighten the group as well as yourselves where we are at in the process.

As of today, the legislation, the final version of the lease agreement has yet to come before our legal council to start the drafting. We have been drafting what we have gotten in terms of the draft. So until -- we need to get it drafted. So we are working off of that. And once the final version gets before us, before legislative, then we can amend it accordingly so that we have something to draft.

The last date that I got as of yesterday was, hopefully, it will come before us on Monday. And so once
the legislation is drafted, there's a five-day comment period before it gets considered by the first committee. Depending on the heading -- or depending on how it's written will determine how many of the standing committees it will go before.

Automatically, it will go to Resource and Development Committee, because they're dealing with -- with the resources of the Navajo Nation. It will go to the Budget and Finance Committee because you're talking about the dollars that come to the nation. And then possibly it will go to the Health, Education Services Committee because you're talking about jobs. And then finally the (native language spoken) committee and then council.

So given that the deadline of May 1st wasn't met, we basically lost 19 days to work through the process. And the deadline for a decision is July 1st. So we will be spending the entire month or most of, I should say, the month of June getting it through the process. And that takes into consideration any work sessions, any further considerations that council wants or the extending committees need to take. And then get -- and then get it in front council prior to July 1st.

I'm of the understanding today that it has been considered, but not considered by the board . And that is to take place June 6th, I believe, at that time
Am I correct?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

SPEAKER LORENZO BATES: June 6th. So once that board, those boards consider it, and then it would have been approved on that side, but council still has to make some determinations.

There are many challenges that council will have to take into consideration. Navajo Nation, the negotiating team has worked diligently in terms of negotiating what would be in the interests of the Navajo Nation. But at the same time, like any other transaction, there are asked and there are asked from the other side. And the ask from the owners for what Navajo Nation is asking is what will be considered.

Be mindful that this legislation is only -- well, let me rephrase that. This legislation contains two perspectives.

One is keeping it open to the end of 2019. The other is the decommissioning. It's part of the packet. And that decommissioning portion is the ask of Navajo to the owners, and the conditions from the other party in recognizing the ask from Navajo. That's the first step.

The second step is beyond 2019. Does NGS, does Peabody continue beyond 2019? But in order to
consider that, this first phase has to be decided upon. Then we go into that. And even that has much more moving pieces in making that determination. We've negotiated back and forth for the last several months.

Beyond 2019, there are just as many, if not definitely more challenges. And because the owners have said, "We are done at the end of 2019," there obviously has to be a new owner to operate NGS.

But the single most challenge, even if an owner was identified, is selling that power. It's a baseload facility right now. That power that is generated has a place to go.

Owners leave, that baseload goes away. So there has to be a place to go for that -- for the coal that you, the miners here, deliver and is burned, generate electricity, that power has to go to be sold someplace.

Now that's a huge challenge that has to be considered. But nonetheless, the president and myself are committed to getting this first process done. His team, legislative have been working on this. We are both committed. We are also committed to looking beyond 2019.

But recognizing those challenges that are associated with it beyond 2019. We have until October 1. It was September 1. Correct me if I'm wrong SRP. We had to inform the owners of NGS as to whether or not we were
As a result of the discussions in Phoenix this past week, last week, they've extended that to October 1. So once council considers, let's just presume that council passes it, the president signs it, immediately that beyond 2019 has to begin to go down that path to address all of the moving pieces in keeping it open beyond 2019.

So that's the process as of right now for this first phase. And the second process in the event council passes it.

Now, obviously, you've all heard, the listening committee here has heard that it impacts the nation in terms of revenue, in terms of jobs, not only for Navajo, but Hopi.

But it goes beyond that, it also impacts the entire state of Arizona because Arizona receives taxes. Those will go away if Peabody goes away and NGS goes away. The border towns, Page, Kayenta, Tuba City, they will all feel the impact because there will no longer be a revenue stream from you folks in this room because you're all going to be going elsewhere in the event it closes, working someplace else.

So those are the challenges in terms of the first phase and obviously moving down, down the bigger
So I thank you for allowing me to speak this morning. And how long beyond three minutes, five minutes?

MS. KRISTIN DARR: I didn't even time you.

SPEAKER LORENZO BATES: Will you be able to come work for me? All right. Thank you very much. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: I didn't want to run the battery out.

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Next is Tommy Yazzie, followed by Dana Eldridge.

MR. TOMMY YAZZIE: Hello. My name is Tommy Yazzie. I'm a retired, 37 years at NGS. And my son works there now. He's a maintenance specialist. And he likes to continue working there to whenever it decommissions.

And I just like to say maybe go with the original plan. Shut down one unit and leave the two units operating. Decommission one unit and keep the two operating, so up to 2019. And in the meantime, you know, start getting it ready for the renewal, maybe a solar field there because -- solar field there somewhere. And they can use the infrastructure there, like power lines and water there.

And during the overhauls of these plants,
they -- NGS employs like a thousand people, mostly from
Navajo Nation.

And I'm for renewals, too, you know, you know
they can maybe build a wind turbines up on Black Mesa, you
know, a lot of winds there. And employ some of these
miners there. Thank you for listening. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Dana Eldridge, and than Anna Frazier?

Where's Anna?

MS. DANA ELDRIDGE: (Native language spoken.)

I came here today to speak to you, my people, in the spirit
of (native language spoken). There has been a lot of
division over these issues. These companies, these
corporations, these governments want our people to turn
against each other. They want our people to fight each
other because they only want what's under our feet. They
don't care what happens to us. They don't care what
happens to our people, our children, our future
generations, our water, all these things that sustain us.

And I came here to speak to you as my
relatives, as my people, as my people, because I know
you're here for your well-being, for the well-being of your
families, for the well-being of your communities. That's
why you're here because you care about the lives of your
children. So do I. So do all these people that are out
here. We all want the same ultimately. We're all in this together. We're all in this together.

That is who we are first and foremost, and I ask you in kindness and love and compassion to please remember that. Let's not fight each other over this. These corporations, these companies, they don't care about us.

I have relatives that work at Navajo Generating Station that have been there for a long time. They are now very sick. They are now very sick with all of the health damages that they've received from working with the chemicals in the plant. What happens to them? They got pushed out.

Look at what happened with Peabody Coal Corporation. They strategically declared bankruptcy so that they wouldn't have to pay the retirement benefits of all of their workers, so they wouldn't have to do the health compensation of all of the their workers.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're wrong about that.

MS. DANA ELDRIDGE: I care about you, my relatives. I care about what happens to our land. I care about what happens to our people. We have to think, too, about the essential element. (Native language spoken.)

These are the things that provide us with our life. These are the things that provide us with our
well-being. Together if our people work together, we can
overcome this difficulty. We can overcome this hardship.
This is fear.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: At three minutes.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: This is fear that they're
trying to instill in us. Fear that we will not know what
to do. It's fear. But we can overcome this. We have all
the strength and ingenuity and courage and compassion and
bravery and intelligence to find a creative solution by
working together. That is what our ancestors prayed for.
That is what they prayed for, for us to return home back to
our sacred mountains and continue to be Dine, for the next
generations to come.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: We need to move on to the
next speaker, please.

MS. DANA ELDRIDGE: (Native language spoken.)
Please let us work together. Let us not fight. Let us not
have negative words. Let us not be discouraged.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Three minutes.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Anna Frazier followed by
Daryl Long.

MS. ANNA FRAZIER: Thank you. (Native
language spoken.) Thank you for us being here. Good
morning, everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
here this morning.

My talk has to do with I support the closure
of Peabody Coal and Navajo Generating Station. My reason
for that is because I've seen the people that have been
relocated when the Peabody Coal came in. And I've seen and
I've worked with them, and a lot of them are our relatives,
my relatives (native language spoken).

And so a lot of them were displaced.

(Native language spoken).

That's what happened. The livelihood of our
people that used to live on Black Mesa were injured, and
they had to move away. They lost their land. They
suffered. And now, there has to be forgiveness and whatnot
for these people so that they can come back and reestablish
their homes and the way of life of our people.

So that's what I had to say. And then also
that we are a resilient people. What I heard is that, you
know, this is very devastating. This is something really,
really bad. Yeah. It's bad, but Navajos (native language
spoken). This is not the end of the world.

And you know as you -- life is -- you know,
life you can lose your job. You can get down to the bottom
of life, but there's always a way out.

(Native language spoken.)
Years and years ago our people were -- their livestock was taken away, and they survived. And we can survive again. We have a lot of young people that are educated, and a lot of your children you probably sent on to school because you made a lot of money, you know, working for Peabody and NGS. And that's how your children are going to come back.

So I just wanted to say that, you know, we have to look forward.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. And that's three minute.

MS. ANNA FRAZIER: Because you know the energy that's been -- it has a (native language spoken). It's not good for our health and our waters especially. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Daryl and then Kern Collymore.

MR. DARYL LONG: Hello. My name is Daryl Long.

(Native language spoken.)

I just want to make a couple points here. Kayenta mine does not pump water to Phoenix from the Navajo aquifer. The Black Mesa pipeline at one time did pump water to Laughlin. That is no more. The water K mine uses is solely for the communities and dust control. We do not
pump it anywhere else.

People mistake -- people are talking like we
still pump water to the valley. Water to Phoenix, it comes
from the Colorado River.

No doctorate, no master, no Ph.D., no
university piece of paper means that you are more
important, nor harder working than I am. I am proficient
in my craft. Solely raising sheep, herding sheep at a full
time does not pay the bills. I don't care if you're the
best sheepherder in the world. It does not pay the bills.

Families have to make a living. We are not
going back to the old days. They talk about going back to
the old days. That's not going to happen. We are too used
to the luxuries we have today.

Whether you are a protestor or not, once
again, I see no wagons outside, no donkeys, no horses. I
see vehicles powered by gasoline and diesel fuel. We can
uphold traditional values while still moving forward. We
have to adapt and advance. That means continuing to mine
and even more efficiently -- at an even more efficient rate
and provide more utilities for Navajo people.

We have all benefited, bottom line. If you
live on the reservation, you have benefited. My elders
talks about balance. Too much of anything is bad. Balance
is the key. We have degrees. We have internship up there,
but in our own way.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Daryl, can I interrupt you for just one moment. I'm stopping your time.

Side conversations around the room are making it difficult to hear. So we just ask that everybody be respectful and listen. Thank you.

MR. DARYL LONG: We have degrees. We have internship in our own way. We are professionals. They look at us as if we somehow just inherited our job title at the mine. It's a job each of us has wanted. We made it a priority to work there.

The test administered weeds out the individuals who are unfit -- when I got interviewed, I got interviewed with over 200 applicants. That's why we are so passionate. It took me four years to get up there. It took me being a service man, a dozer operator, and then finally being a mechanic. That was my dream. That's what I wanted to do, and I did it.

Once again, it's about balance. In this case being able to operate at least to 2029 giving time for revenue and at the same time building renewable projects, that's the balancing act. Going cold turkey holds no water.

Instead let us continue while the Navajo Nation figures the lost revenue situation out. When the
giant monster-like looking turbines begin to rise, the bird chopping will begin. When the miles and miles of solar panels start to replace and relocate people there will still be protestors protesting the change.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: That's three minutes.

MR. DARYL LONG: They will simply change the protest angle for another. That's the easy thing to do. No one is ever going to be a hundred percent happy. There is not a one-fix solution for this problem.

Let us appreciate what we have and look to the future. At one time the U.S. government tried to exterminate us. Now we are here working together. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you, sir.

Okay. Just a reminder that we're trying to stick as close to three minutes as possible. I'll stand up at two minutes and 30 seconds indicating that you've got 30 seconds left.

Kern Collymore. Thank you.

MR. KERN COLLYMORE: (Native language spoken.)

I am from an island in the Caribbean, Trinidad Tobago. (Native language spoken.) I'm married into the Bitter Water clan, but I'm from the Caribbean, so I like to talk a lot.
So I want to say how, you know, our communities, this is something that we all realize our communities have been paying the price of mining and extraction industries for a long time.

You talked about relocation with solar panels. And relocation has been going on for a long time, a lot of our communities have been dealing with this. All right?

This company has made trillions of dollars, trillions off of us. All right? And we are still driving down dirt roads. We are still hauling water. We still have little kids dying because of rollovers. All right.

And you're asking us to continue that. They have made trillions off of us.

Why are we being the ones asked to look at the extension of the expansion plans. We have known since the '80s that oil is dying industry and that coal is a dying industry. They should have been planning since then for you. They should have been teaching you since then, since the '90s, since the 2000s. This has been coming for a long time. And now you're asking us to continue with it.

We don't see the benefits. They have made trillions. Are these people here going back to Chinle? Are they going back to Klagetoh? They go back to their homes. My kid is drinking uranium in his water in Sanders
because of the mining. All right. Where is that company at?

And Black Mesa we have our families who have been there for generations, before Bilagaanas came here, and they have to get relocated for a mine company, and they're telling me to continue this.

You know, we talk about the skills that you've learned, the company teaches you. And I feel like that's a great thing and that they should be teaching you skills, but for exactly this transition economy. They should be teaching you how to make the solar panels. They should be teaching us about wind turbines, but they're not. All their doing is digging Mother Earth and asking us to wait longer.

And, again, they have made trillions of dollars. Not millions, not billions, trillions since the '80s. That's 40 years.

Where is that in our communities? We have grandmas and grandpas dying of cancers we've never heard of before. Never heard of before. And then we're going to say it's for a couple of paychecks, we want to keep 400 jobs while there are 300,000 of us on the reservation.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: And that's three minutes.

MR. KERN COLLYMORE: Right now in your unemployment program on the Navajo Nation there are
201,000 -- I'm sorry -- there are 2,197 young adults
between the age of 18 and 35 that are in the Navajo Nation
are unemployed, just in one program. And you're telling to
me to continue this. All right.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Can you wrap up,
sir?

MR. KERN COLLYMORE: Trillions of dollars
they've made off of us. Trillions.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: You're getting paid too.

MR. KERN COLLYMORE: Please tell me by who.

Yep, there's lots of money in Lupton, isn't there.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you. Okay.

Happy Friday, everybody. And we have -- we have just
enough time for a few more speakers.

Our next speaker is Mikayla Johnson, followed
by Alyssa James. Mikayla?

MS. MIKAYLA JOHNSON: (Native language
spoken.) Today I'm here to give my opinion on the Navajo
Generating Station. I am all for having NGS open until
2019 as long as we are planning ahead for a better way to
produce energy. Renewable, perhaps, should be the first
option.

I live on 305, which is a range unit north of
Hard Rock. I live in a hogan with three of my siblings.
My relatives also live on 305. They have the same
hardships as I.

We have animals that we have to look after. And in order to do that we have to feed and water them, though. Where do we get the water from? We either get the water from our local chapter house, which is Hard Rock, or we have to haul it from other places, such as Piñon chapter or Peabody well.

As for the food, we have to -- we usually allow our sheep and animals to graze. But because of little water, the grass out at our house is not growing as much, and our animals are overgrazing. Therefore, we have to bring in hay from various places, such as, Chinle, Window Rock, or Gallup, T and R (phonetic).

Despite all these hardships, I would like to see the grasses grow taller as it used to be, and water would come out of springs, like the way my grandmothers tell me in stories. I could only -- I only hope I could see that day.

Thank you all for your time, and I hope you take my words into consideration. Not only do you make decisions for the present, but for the future as well to help the owners in Navajo Nation leaders make the right decision, a sustainable decision. (Native language spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.
Okay. Next is Alyssa James followed by Raeanna Johnson.

Alyssa.

MS. ALYSSA JAMES: (Native language spoken.)

Every Saturday I help my Grandma, Doreen Herder, herd her sheep. It's very exciting and enjoyable. Sometimes we find petrified rocks. It's fun climbing rocks and stuff. I love finding rocks and watching the sheep.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Excuse me. I'm sorry. We can't hear because of side conversations. So thank you all for listening to our speaker.

MS. ALYSSA JAMES: I have an opportunity to have some time with my grandma and see the land that I'm coming from, the land that will always be ours for generation to the next and on and on. Being outside on the land is the life that I appreciate. If we take care of our environment, we can continue to have a healthy livelihood.

Instead you leaders are pleading that Navajo Generating Station stay open for the money and jobs.

Navajo -- or -- into our atmosphere. We breath this air, and the plants and animals breathe this air as well. I have read that there is no safe way to dispose of coal ash. It is toxic and bad for our bodies and the environment.

I will be living the consequences of your
choices and decisions, and for that I want you leaders to
start thinking about what happens if Navajo Generating
Station closes.

Besides the money and jobs, what other
positive things can we get out of this situation? We can
gain our water rights. We can receive water that comes
from the Colorado River to use for drinking water.

When my family goes on vacation to
California, we see solar panels and wind turbines on the
way. Perhaps we should consider bringing renewable energy
to the Navajo Nation. Renewable energy is better than
using fossil fuels because it does not pollute our
environment.

Please consider using renewable energy so our
environment stays healthy. Thank you. (Native language
spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Thank you.
Raeanna, and then Adrean Augustine. Is that
Adrean?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Okay. Raeanna.

MS. RAEANNA JOHNSON: (Native language
spoken.)

Now, is the time to use your influence and
your funds to set the Navajo Nation on a new path, one that
is economical and sustainable. You have kept the Navajo Nation locked into coal for decades. The result of this are depletion and contamination of our water sources, the pollution of our air and Superfund sites all across the Navajo Nation.

Poverty in the western definition has kept Navajo Nation making desperate decisions. Decisions that have never brought us to prosperity, but has degraded our way of life and our resources for years.

I am hopeful that the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Reclamations will take this opportunity now to make a pathway forward for people like me who want to finish school and have a career but also want to keep my culture and language. I don't plan to live off the reservation permanently. I love my home, and look forward to returning after I get done with school.

Here in the high desert we get about 8 inches of rain. We cannot waste our water, nor can we pollute our land or skies. Every pollution released into the sky or on the ground impacts our water. But we have operated like this -- we have operated like the resources are abundant and unlimited. Please don't make anymore decisions based on desperation or corporate bottom line.

Make the next decisions so that I can be sure of a permanent home on Black Mesa. Invest your time and
resources on transitioning Navajo Nation to a renewable economy. Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: All right. Thank you.

Adrean Augustine, and then John Begay.

MR. ADREAN AUGUSTINE: Hello. My name is Adrean Augustine. And I am here because I support NGS and the coal miners that are here.

I've heard a lot over the past few days about the economic impact and everything that is going to be affected, and I agree with it. I am not in the coal industry. I'm not in the energy business. What I am in is the trading post business. I see both sides and a lot of the same faces that come to these meetings from both sides.

And what I can say is, if you shut down NGS and the coal mine, it will affect everybody across the reservation as the recession did to all the tradesmen and people that travel for jobs.

The whole point in NGS and the coal was to keep jobs here on the reservation. And if you take apart, dismantle, or do whatever you want to do to that plant, it will destroy the economics not only northern Arizona, but across the southwest.

The reason being is because it will affect everything from truck drivers to trading posts, to the cities that support everybody in northern Arizona. It will
affect the coal miners. It will affect the local economies. It will affect the subsidies that go to both tribes. And you know, it's just -- what it is basically is, you know, is to be destruction on a huge scale.

There's a lot of things that I have in going through my head. And as I've listened to everybody speak here. And I can't say that in three minutes, but what I can say is that I support NGS. And I believe that coal is a gift to the native people.

Everybody here sees it as the enemy. Something that's bad. But the way I see it, and there's a lot of others, is it's a gift. What we can do with it is we can bring ourselves out of the Dark Ages, the old ways and into the future.

We can use it to better the reservation and do what our president would say. Learn the art of the deal, and maybe we can distribute, not only to the NGS, but to other people across the world. That would be a great economic benefit for the Navajo people, the Hopi people, and we would also be getting more subsidies from it.

It is up to us to march into the future with coal. Coal has its benefits. Wind energy, you know, if you wanted to replace the Navajo Generating Station with a solar plant, it would take 6,000 acres. 6,000.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: That's three minutes.
MR. ADREAN AUGUSTINE: Think about that. My suggestion is, is for the future people to run it, if NGS doesn't, maybe the Bureau or the Department of Energy could take it over as well as the Navajo Nation. Thank you.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.

Okay. We have three more speakers. We have three more speakers, and then we'll have closing remarks from President Begaye.

John Begay, Shannon James, and Devin James are our final speakers.

John.

MR. JOHN BEGAY: Hello. My name is John Begay, and I would like to tell you what I -- a little sliver of what my daily life consists of as being a miner of Peabody Coal.

First thing I do, I work from when I get up in the morning to about 2:00 a.m. That's when I go to sleep. And the first thing I do in the morning is I drop to my knees and I pray to my God, thank you, for what he has given me, a job.

And I thank my family. And I pray for a miracle. When I do that, my wife walks in, this beautiful woman. And I say, "Woman, you look good. Most days you look good, but today you look really, really good."

Okay. And then she says, "Your breakfast is
ready." Now that's a miracle. I give her a hug. I give
her a kiss. My kids, my son and daughter, I also give them
a hug and a kiss. And I thank them. And then I do my
mom's daily chores. She's old. She's a sheepherder. She
takes care of the sheep. She weaves. She lives off the
land. That's how they were raised.

So I -- she's too old now to do all that. So
I take care of that. I make sure that her house is warm.
I take out the ashes. I feed the dogs for her. I take
the -- tend to the sheep for her. The lambs -- are lambing
and baby goats, I take care of that for her. The water,
the hay and all of that. Okay?

And this is what this job has given me, a
chance to hug my family each and every day. And I hug them
and I kiss them.

Most people on the other side say the air is
bad. The water is bad. The soil is bad. Everything that
surrounds the mine is bad. But I have been inside, the
heart of it, inside of it, and I have none of the medical
problems that it says it produces.

I drink Peabody water. My -- my in-laws have
a farm. And that's what we eat, corn, squash, whatever
that live off the land. And I also try to do my best as a
worker, as a miner. I am a son. I am a father. I am a
grandfather, and I am also a first responder, a firefighter
and a rope rescue.

This is what the mine has given me. This is what my job has given me. And I'm also a sheepherder, and I raise cattle.

And I'm going back to my traditional ways, and I'm about ready to retire. And I am thankful, and I like to thank you for listening to me. And thank you very much.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you. Three minutes on the dot. Good job.

Shannon, and then Devin James. And then we'll hear from the president.

MR. SHANNON JAMES: (Native language spoken.) I'm just going to get straight to the point, you know. We can sit here all day and come back with, you know, counterarguments and counter speeches against each other. But I'm just going to get straight to the point of what I have to say, basically three things is.

Number one, we have to go to renewable energies right now at this moment.

Why? Brings us to our number two point. We are getting left behind in the renewable energy market, which is the future. And number three, my final point. We have to get into the renewable energy market again. It's happening right now. And people are transitioning, and
we're getting left behind.

And from -- even though you miners want to keep mining, you know, we have to get into the renewable energy market now. And it's -- we have no other choice.

(Native language spoken.)

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you.
And our final speaker, will be Devin James.

Devin.

MR. DEVIN JAMES: Can you guys hear me?

Good afternoon, Department of Interior, Navajo Nation, President. My name is Devin James. And I've worked for Peabody for eight years. I am a third generation to my family, my (native language spoken) was a drag line operator, and my father was a preparation supervisor, and I am an HR representative.

I am the front -- I stand at the front row when it comes to job opportunities. Every job that comes available to the public, we get about over a hundred applicants per position.

I get to interact with all these applicants that are working in other states. I've met a gentlemen from Maine, from the Navajo reservation. And I just got off the phone the other day with a guy from Shonto working in Arkansas.

We have a lot of people out there that are
hungry for jobs. They want to come back home. And just
the other day we offered a job to a gentleman in the
Department of Human Resources. And his reaction,
speechless. I never seen a man jump up for joy and shook
my hands and every person in the department.

The value of the job is very important,
critical. It provides for their families, our families.

And there's two perspectives that I want to
bring out is my years of employment is, I worked in the
c coal loadout at the facility for the public. The coal
loadout had a lot of people depend on that for coal to
provide for their family. You know, selling coal out to
residents like Ship Rock or bring coal home to bring warmth
to their home.

And when I used to work in that department,
we used to have people line up 10:00 p.m. the day before to
start getting in line to start purchasing coal the next
following business day. And the demand is there for the
people. And the jobs, again the jobs.

It's -- it's important. All of us know and
have been there, working out there. But being home is our
primary focus. And I enjoy my job every day. All these
employees uphold their job good. And there is not a day
that I regret going to work. I love my job. We all love
our job.
And again, it's -- thank you. Thank you for your time. And on behalf of Peabody, thank you very much.

MS. KRISTIN DARR: Thank you, sir.

All right. Well, thank you, everybody. We got through another three hours together.

Mr. President, it's time for you to close.

PRESIDENT BEGAYE: Yes. Great to hear everyone. And since I became president, Day One, everything that I've heard, whether it's one-on-one conversation, chapters meetings or meetings like this, is all right here. So I love technology. I love things that we're doing that's happening.

But I just want to tell you that we are focused on three things.

But let me say before that we work hard, negotiate long, long hours to get NGS contract renewed to 2044. At that time, I was council delegate, and I went to every meeting. I attended every back door meeting, all the private session, closed door session, public sessions. I've debated on the floor of the council. I did all of that for a number of months. And there were things that NGS wanted that I was not willing to give up.

Water is one. Navajo Nation preference, employment preference was another one. Navajo Business Opportunity Act, I wanted all of those inside the
contracts. But that didn't happen. I got outvoted by members of the -- by my colleagues. And so -- but we all worked hard.

When we voted and approved the lease that will go to 2044 is that we all walked out agreeing that, yes, some of us, all the things -- we didn't get everything we wanted, but we did get, I believe, everything that NGS wanted, we gave it to them. All the owners got everything that they wanted.

And so I'm thinking that within a month, maybe two months, the owners will sign off on it. They will agree to it. They got everything they wanted. But then started moving forward, slowly 2014, there's no signage on the contract. Five of them are supposed to sign off on it, but it kept going. And then soon we heard that LA was going to get out of coal-generated electricity.

So that came up. And then as we start moving forward again, we heard Nevada legislators voted to not use coal-generated electricity, specifically pointing to NGS. Meaning that Nevada Energy said, "We don't want energy from NGS."

So that was specifically mentioned. Not the LA one. LA was just anything that's coal generated. So I'm hearing these things, but I'm still pushing on to get this thing signed by the owners.
So the owners told me Nevada is out. They don't want to sign. I met with them. They said as long as we're not obligated through beyond 2019, we're ready to sign. So we got that thing settled, and then started meeting with other owners. They were really excited about moving forward, I believe.

And then a meeting with APS. APS was the first one that said, "I don't think we're going to sign."

And I said, "We gave you everything that you wanted. You asked for. You should put your name on there. And let's move forward."

But that didn't happen. So next thing we know, they're saying, "It costs this much to operate NGS, and we're getting this much money here." And so that conversation completely changed everything.

So immediately I said, "You know, it sounds like the owners don't want to continue. They are not going to live up to the things that they said they were going to when we signed the lease and passed that lease in 2014."

And so I immediately established three things, a task force.

One, I said, "Let's see if they can find a way to move full operation to 2019 and then decommission it." Conversation with who was going to do that also began taking place.
The second task force that I developed was if we go beyond 2019, then we need to get ready on how that's going to take place, whether it's new owners, all of that to 2029. Because the reason I say 2029 is 2030 is when the retrofit is supposed to take place 30 to 300 to $500 million. It's going to be expensive. So that's what we started talking about.

The third thing, the third task force was how do we -- to close this thing down if we don't go to 2029, how do we transition? And I need monies coming in through the Navajo Nation, and where are we going to get jobs? And what do we do beyond NGS closing? So that's the third group. So we had three groups working.

But the focus went over to the first group as the Speaker mentioned earlier. It went to the first group, which was, how do we move to 2019? And I appreciate the owners, especially SRP saying, "You know, I think we can do that. I believe we can move to full operation 2019 and then decommission afterwards."

Now, I know NGS is here, and I want to say that when we met the second time in D.C., the SRP people said, "You know, we're going to try and put everybody -- we're going to try to get everybody that works at NGS a place to work."

And I looked over there, and they were just
sitting several seats down. And I said, "You know, is that
true that you NGS workers will all get jobs someplace?"

So when I got the mic, I gave my appreciation
to the chairman of SRP, to the folks that were there, and I
said, "I appreciate you guys making a commitment that NGS
workers will have jobs even if NGS closes down. So I just
want to say thank you for making that commitment." And so
I said, "I'm going to make sure that I'm tracking that."

So I said that in that meeting.

So the first group up to, I believe, we had a
lot of back and forth over water, over cleanup, over a lot
of critical issues. (Native language spoken.)

So we had a really, really hard discussion
and even up into yesterday, last night talking about some
of these critical areas because we've never closed down a
plant, the power plant, ever on Navajo. This is the first
time.

And so our biggest thing is when this cleaned
up, we want to make sure it is cleaned up. That there's no
contamination of groundwater in the future, that all the
issues that we know that may come up in the future is all
resolved. This is NGS.

And so who's going to do monitoring? Who's
going to make sure that the contamination 30 years from
now, that's going to take place, who's going to be
responsible for all of that?

So all of those things discussing all of that, all of these things we're able to work out all the kinks, the languages, and brought the council in yesterday. They met. Nine of them showed up. We were hoping for 24, but 9 council delegates attended that session to give them, this is what we agreed to, this is what's on the table. Now you guys have to have to drop it, legislate it.

But it's ready to be dropped. It's ready to be dropped, and so we're hoping -- I was hoping that we would do that today.

And then, but then there's conversation that it may happen on Monday. But the sooner we do it, whether it's today or Monday, it needs to be done, and it needs to be done quickly.

This is the first part. I'm just making sure that you guys understand this is to 2019. Appreciate SRP agreeing to 2019, and then start working hard on it. So July 1 deadline we believe we can make it. If there are delegates here, I -- we have done this before and we move this into emergency legislation, and it just goes right to Naabik'iyati' into council and rather than going through the committees. And we've done that. We've done that. We've always done that.

Because the questions are asked in one
committee, and the next one, and the next one. Those same questions come up at Naabik'iyati' and the same questions that come up at Naabik'iyati' comes up in the council. So we waste a lot of time. Because I was a member of the council. That's why I'm saying that.

So you asked the question. There are four times depending on what committee you're a member of, so rather than repeating ourselves and listening to each other again over the same things, let's just get right to it, let Naabik'iyati' handle it, and then go on to council and debate it twice.

So this is a suggestion by what goes through committees. That's okay, too. But at least be done as soon as to possible.

(Native language spoken.)

When this legislated and then it comes over to my office for consideration -- and I'm going to say this, is that if it comes over and they make amendments on what our team has been working on over weeks 24/7 they're talking about this, past midnight, early mornings, a lot of discussions taking place over this first phase, not the second or the third, but the first phase, which is 2019 and then decommissioning.

And the reason why, again, is to make sure that the cleanup is done correctly, properly and we are
able to make sure that it goes all the way into 35 years of
monitoring that thing.

So that's where we're at. And so we're just
now waiting for it to be tracked to turn over to council
and let them debate it. And then when it comes over and
there's some major changes and we disagree with that, we
have the option to veto that legislation and send it back
to council and say, "Wait a minute, guys, we agreed to this
and this and that positioning ourselves for Phase 3 for the
third part," which is the ability to move to renewable, to
wind, to solar. We already have those conversations. It's
in the works. We're making -- we're having conversation,
beyond conversation. We're negotiating deals with
companies that want to come in and utilize what's in the
agreement all the way to the fullest.

And like I said, we'll be able to get more
monies to the nation than we are from NGS and Peabody
combined if we're successful in getting that part done.
That's the third one. But I just want to stay on this
first part, which is the 2019 and decommissioning.

So if it comes over and the owners, NGS
owners says, you know, "President, they did this, this,
this, and that," and so the owners already said, "We're not
going to agree. We're walking away. We're closing shop.
Everybody is going to go home, no jobs beginning the middle
of July, and Peabody workers will go home, NGS workers will
go home beginning July, because this took place."

And after we have that conversation, because
I'll have ten days to agree to that, and if the owners are
saying that, and we believe that what we negotiated fair
and square, we all agreed on it. Meaning my team, members
of the council, that we work hard on this and agreed to
that, I will most likely veto that thing because it's dead
anyway. Workers will lose their jobs anyway. So send it
back to -- let's see if we can come back to the table and
revisit that. (Native language spoken.)

Because we want to make sure that we run full
operation to 2019. We need that time frame to transition,
and then decommission afterwards, whether it takes two or
three years.

So that's the first over here. So we're
ready to go. And as soon as council drops it, I'm hoping
today, they're saying Monday. And then hopefully, we can
expedite the process and get it done with so that we can --
but we're already working on Phase two -- or the two, the
second track, I should say. (Native language spoken.)

As the Speaker said, one, who's willing to
buy and become owners of the plant to 2029. Secondly,
who's going to buy that? And so our team, we're already
out there shopping. Who's going to the buy it? And part
of the thing is that there are some changes that are taking place out there in the marketplace that I think we'll be able to sell the power to. SRP is willing to look at buying the power from our -- or buying part of that. Some of the other owners.

And then, so there's -- so there's potential buyers, possibly, but it's going to be a challenge. I will tell you that right now. Because you have to, not only be able to become a owner, but be able to sell it. So those two go hand in hand. (Native language spoken.) But we're working on it, and we've talked to some good companies, and are looking at the possibility of becoming owners and operating through 2029.

The third part, if all of that goes away, then what happens over here. And this is where I'm asking the Department of Interior, we have -- we're creating mechanism on how to make that happen.

One is we development first on any Indian nation development corporation, which is a tax exempt, federally tax exempt, state tax exempt mechanism by which we can put companies under there, whether it's Navajo owned companies or other companies and get manufacturing plants to Navajo going to technology, into high tech, those types of things.

And so that's going to come before DOI for
their signature. When they say, yes, then companies are waiting.

    I mean, we're flying around the country, sitting down with companies that want to take advantage of that opportunity. (Native language spoken.)

    So that's going to happen, and we're moving as fast as we can with that part to create jobs that are sustainable that will carry our people into the next generation and generations to come.

    So that's working -- that's the third group over here working on that. Again, like I said, we're also talking with companies that are willing to help us develop solar energy. Not only that, but to build, to manufacture solar panels right here on Navajo.

    But that technology's continually changing. The solar panel of a year ago is different from the solar panel of today with the two new technology that's coming in.

    So we're working hard on it. We are hoping that we'll get more than what we're being offered put on the table. Because if we're able to do that, I know that we can really develop Navajo Nation in the whole area of renewables and be able to sell that power. We can sell it not just to a company out there, not to a city but we can sell it actually to like Walmart, to Google, to these -- to
companies like that because they are now buying these
gas one on one.

One company buying energy from one source.
And we can -- we're making those offers even today. That's
what we're working on is saying, "If we develop this, are
you willing to come and partner with us with whether
it's" -- and cities also, like Santa Clara just made a deal
with another company to buy energy from them using solar.

And the casinos in Vegas, they're buying,
they're making deals on buying energy from companies that
are making these things.

So we want to be there. We want to be in
that game. We want to be able to sell to the casinos, to
individual industry, to cities and towns, and so that will
create more jobs on our end, on this side, Navajo.

So we're not just standing still. We're not
just waiting, we're not just working hard over here to get
NGS to go to 2019 or to 2029, but we're also over here
working on developing -- transitioning to a new economy for
Navajo.

And we want to continue to have a portfolio
that's diverse (native language spoken). And the way some
of the cities are doing, like Tucson. Tucson said, natural
gas is not really dependable source of energy. They get it
from Texas all the way piped across the Navajo into Tucson,
Phoenix. And so we at one time said, "You know, we may just put a little spigot on the -- on the natural gas that's coming over to Tucson and to Phoenix, and so that you guys can pay us for getting gas through our Navajo Nation land through these pipelines, and you pay us for it." And so (native language spoken).

Because, like I said, the natural gas that's used in the valley, it all comes from outside the state. And so, you know, so those are some dynamics that we're (native language spoken).

So remember, one, trying to get it to 2019. Council will take a hold of that, they'll debate it, and come over, sign off on it, and make sure that we fully operate, so we can have time to transition.

At the same time when that signature goes on there, we're already out there meeting with people that want to become owners, entertaining that possibility. And I met with several of them already myself.

Thirdly, if everything -- well, even if things work out or don't work out -- is transitioned over to renewables, and we want to be in the game with renewables. But again, there's some -- there's some challenges even in renewables. (Native language spoken.)

So we're looking at how you create renewables, not just in one place, but multiple places.
Looking at wind (native language spoken). But the biggest thing we want to get into is high technology and be able to build drones and be able to build airplanes, car parts on Navajo. And we have a railroad that runs across Navajo Nation land partly. We can ship product, produce around the world.

But we're building that foundation. And as soon as council can vote on it and approve it, send it to DOI and it comes back, and we're ready to roll into developing this whole area that Navajo has not been before.

So we're strengthening, leveraging the monies that we have. We're not able to issue out bonds. We never had that before until now. These are federal bonds. Now with this new one we'll be able to issue private bonds. And every municipalities out there, whoever they are, if they're really growing, they're issuing out bonds, private and federal bonds. That's how they build up their cities.

But now we're able to do the federal issuing of bonds. And that happened last year, and then now this coming year, we'll be able to do the private one. That's how we build the nation.

So we're not dealing with just one area, but all the scope of what we need to do to move the Navajo Nation forward. That's why when I look at all of those things, all the conversations, all the negotiations pulled
together, that's why I can say I think I believe Navajo Nation will be one of the largest employers in the southwest.

We're working hard, get this thing 2019 and maybe beyond to 2029. That would be great. And then at the same time broaden our portfolio to include all the other things that I just mentioned. That's how we're doing it. We're just not going to focus on one area and we've got to have balance in everything that we do.

Next week, maybe today, maybe Monday it's going to be dropped. And then public comments, and then comes over to -- they vote on it, and it comes over to us for consideration. But again, just remember, what I just said is that if it's, if the owners is going to turn it down like they did the 2013-14 agreement, then I'm going to have to really look at it seriously.

I have ten days to meet with council, go back over where the disagreements are again, veto that thing, run it back through, and let them redo it so that we can continue working until 2029, 2019. That's really important. We have to have those two years for us to transition if it's going to close down.

A lot of challenges. But as people have been saying in these hearings, we're resilient. We can make it. We're smart, and we can have a broad, broad portfolio and
be able to move this nation forward.

(Native language spoken.)

Water, and I just can't -- you know, and over here we're talking about water, the contractual agreement. And, you know, that's a big fight. And in this agreement there are some water there. We need a whole, whole lot more. And that's where some of the -- some of the -- some of the negotiation is taking place. That's really important, water. The Colorado River and LCR. All of those combining into one source, not just one part but all the parts.

(Native language spoken.)

We're negotiating on all these areas.

And again, thankful to DOI. And we'll be back in D.C. next week meeting with Mr. Cason. So we have that scheduled already, I think and be able to sit down with the D.C. folks and talk about some of these issues. I think that's what they've asked us. So we'll be back over there this coming week.

Thank you for being here, Mr. Palumbo, Bureau of Reclamation.

Leslie Meyers, thank you.

And the rest of staff, thank you. And then thank you. (Navajo language spoken.)

God bless all of you. Thank you.
(Listening Session concludes at 11:25 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED REPORTER

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn by me to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction; that I have complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206(F)(3) and ACJA 7-206 J(1)(g)(1) and (2).

I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

[ ] Review and signature was requested; any changes made by the witness will be attached to the original transcript.

[ ] Review and signature was waived/not requested.

[X] Review and signature not required.

Dated at Phoenix, Arizona, this 10th day of June, 2017.

\[Signature\]
DANIELLE C. GRIFFIN, RPR
Certified Reporter
Arizona CR No. 50296

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I CERTIFY that GRIFFIN & ASSOCIATES, LLC, has complied with the ethical obligations set forth in ACJA 7-206 (J)(1)(g)(1) through (6).

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