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04/29/2011 01:20 Subject
PM April 25 Hearing

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Rachel,

Attached is the Ascii of the hearing from April 25, 2011 that was held in the Cameron Chapter House. Hard copies will follow by mail.

Thank you,

Leslie Clark

Performance Reporters, Inc.

928-213-1040(See attached file: cameron.txt)

2

3 (Whereupon, a presentation was made,

4 after which public comments were

5 invited.)

6

7 JIMMY WALKER: I just wanted to go

8 ahead and make a statement that I'm opposed to the

9 mining out there in Grand Canyon just to the west of

10 us there. I just really have talked to people up

11 there that actually live up there that are against

12 that, against the mining over there, that actually

13 have like the sheep camps. They just moved back up

14 there, and they oppose that. And with that, I told

15 them I'll be here to go, to come to the meeting and to

16 say for them, say no.

17 And then, personally, we have land up there,

18 too. So, with that, I oppose it, you know, to go

19 ahead. And I've been living here all my life and, we

20 are trying to go ahead and get like benefits, like the

21 down-winder stuff.

22 My dad, he's the only one that would have

23 gotten any compensation unless my siblings, they

24 didn't get any compensation. We actually lived where

25 the uranium mines were. And then, like my sister,

3

1 they both got health problems. And that might be

2 affiliated with the uranium mining. And then, you

3 know, it's hard to go to get the compensation that

4 they need from the harm that's come from the uranium.

5 That's why I went ahead and said I have to make a
6 statement, you know.

7 And then, if they do go ahead and open the
8 mines, I say why don't they compensate us first, if
9 they're going to go ahead and do the mines, instead of
10 waiting until we all die off, you know? See, my dad
11 would have got compensated, but he went ahead and
12 passed away. So that was no good. Didn't do him any
13 good, you know. He died from lung cancer and whatnot.
14 So he went ahead and, back in the late '40s and '50s
15 when they had the mines, that's when he went ahead and
16 did those mines.

17 And we actually -- I mean, we played daily
18 in the mines, where the mines were. And then, when I
19 go ahead and get checkups and stuff like that, they
20 say, hey, you're all right, nothing wrong with that.
21 But somewhere along the line, it's going to go ahead
22 and catch up, you know. It's just my time. It comes
23 sooner or later. My sisters younger than me, they
24 both have like breathing problem, asthma and stuff
25 like that.

4

1 And me, the only thing that I go ahead and
2 have is like I go ahead and, you know, my hands go
3 ahead and peel every -- about once a month, you know.
4 It's just on one side. And then they go ahead and
5 they -- it might be affiliated with my service in

6 Vietnam, too.

7 So I think -- again, I'm still waiting on
8 paperwork on that one, too. It's 1975, the war was
9 over. And then I have the veterans organization here,
10 and we're trying to go ahead and help people get their
11 benefits from that, too. So we're sort of like up
12 against a rock and a hard place. So, I'm against it,
13 you know.

14 I'm hoping some of these other people that
15 are here will go ahead and put their two cents in,
16 too. I was the first one to sign up, I said I'll go.
17 And then these ladies, I'm pretty sure they'll go
18 ahead and say no to it, too. That's -- no mining, you
19 know. That's what I meant. I say no mining.

20 ANGIE YAZZIE: Just, basically, like
21 Jimmy said, no mining whatsoever. I think it's caused
22 too much damage already to the tribe and the people
23 that have been affected by it. You know, a lot of my
24 relatives have died from that cancer. So, it's
25 something I would not want my children to go through,
5
1 ever.

2 So I would think, you know, that people that
3 are mining this stuff should, you know, people's
4 safety should be their number one concern, and that
5 would mean absolutely no mining whatsoever. Because
6 of what has happened, also, in Japan, you know. It's
7 just too much, too devastating, you know, for, for

8 that to ever happen.

9 So I think that a lot of Native Americans
10 are against any mining of that type whatsoever. That
11 would be my statement, no mining whatsoever.

12 WILFRED NAZTSOSIE: I don't want no
13 mining. There's a lot of people that have been mining
14 here before, and downwind, and nobody can't do nothing
15 about it. So no mining around this place, you know.
16 A lot of people are getting sick and having shortness
17 of life. So that's why, even contaminating the water
18 and livestock and so forth. So no mining.

19 I went through one when it was working, when
20 I was still a kid, you know. They can't do nothing
21 about it. My grandma used to raise crops around here,
22 too. They cleared all the land and stuff where we
23 used to plant and done away with it. So I'm still
24 trying to go over there and be tested, but they say
25 you had to have been working there, you know. And a

6

1 lot of people coming in from other places were
2 downwind, you know, something like that, and they go
3 through. But I don't know why Indians don't have
4 that, you know.

5 So it's best not to have a mine around here,
6 so. That's what I was worried about, you know, my
7 kids going around, grandkids and stuff. It would be
8 all over the reservation. I don't want that to happen
9 to my kids and grandkids and stuff like that, you

10 know. So that's why I don't want no mining. A lot of
11 my elderlies, you know, people are getting sick off
12 that and they pass on, you know. I'm from here in
13 Cameron. So there was mining here, a lot of people,
14 you know. Only a few, you know, they work over there
15 and they got money back. Us people that have been
16 living here with all the dust and stuff, nobody wants
17 to do nothing about it, you know.

18 No mining. I think it's better to have no
19 mine. They can have it on the other places where they
20 have it, you know, but not here. Grand Canyon and
21 Supai and all that stuff, no. Flagstaff. That's what
22 I was thinking about, you know.

23 I saw they had a meeting here. I didn't
24 know about it, I just came. I was late, but I was
25 thinking about it, you know, the talk. There are a
7
1 lot of people getting, you know, sick, so I don't
2 think it's a good idea to have more people get sick
3 down here with cancer and stuff like that, you know,
4 contaminating the water and stuff like that.

5 That's all. That was on my mind, you know.
6 Maybe it's still coming in, you know, going to school,
7 the kids, all these mines, you know. Some of them are
8 still there and they didn't cover them back up.
9 Nobody test it to see if it still has ore in them, you
10 know. All the dust and stuff, you know. It's best
11 not to have it, you know. That's probably all.

12 BILL ADAMS: (Through Interpreter Ed
13 Singer)

14 I oppose all mining, all extractive
15 processes, because they do not reclaim and leave
16 sometimes the holes on the field and all that. What
17 they're mining are the transportation through here of
18 the ore. It is not safe and it has harmed our people
19 and continues to harm our people. For those reasons,
20 I oppose any mining.

21 JEANETTE HUSKON: (Through Interpreter
22 Ed Singer)

23 We'd like to see the Interior Secretary
24 withdraw for good. If he withdraws it 20 years or
25 longer, she doesn't want to see it. So, she said that
8
1 she, she is indecisive because she doesn't understand
2 why they want to exploit this uranium, but she's
3 pretty sure that it's for a reason.

4 BETTY HUSKON: (Through Interpreter Ed
5 Singer)

6 There's mines around here my ex-husband used
7 to work. Eventually he got sick from the work that he
8 did there and he passed away.

9 She's having some respiratory problems and
10 she believes that it may be effects from the uranium
11 that she was exposed to. Work is good, employ is
12 good, and for that, I support all development. But we
13 also know the legacy of this business, and there are

14 none of the workers here anymore. That would be it.

15 PATRICIA BIGHORSE: I think my biggest
16 concern on this uranium mining is the effects that
17 will, that will hinder the wildlife. A lot of
18 people -- for example, the issues we're having right
19 now with the Navajo wind power that they want to put
20 on top of Gray Mountain. They're not thinking about
21 the wildlife out there, and the vegetation.

22 You know, I know that uranium is not good
23 for vegetation or human or, you know, wildlife, but,
24 you know, they've been there for this long and I don't
25 see the reason in disturbing it, the way it is, now.

9

1 If we don't -- but, on the other hand, you know, like
2 we say, everything's got to progress.

3 And I'm kind of -- don't like the idea of
4 the mining only because of that, for that fact. No
5 one is speaking for the animals. And I think that's
6 where we need to really consider their habitats and
7 their, you know, their lifestyle there. I'm really
8 against the idea of mining anything, even for profit,
9 even if it's going to be for -- whether it be for good
10 or bad.

11 You know, and I believe, traditionally, that
12 the land has been brought here for us to use for our
13 consumption, for our body and our health, but I don't
14 believe too much in mining or disturbing the land the
15 way it is.

16 And, you know, even though they say uranium
17 is out there, there's -- you have pictures of them,
18 you know, people, the remains of our ancestors and all
19 the artifacts that are left behind. Those are
20 something we still need to consider, no matter what we
21 do. And, you know -- so I kind of am against the idea
22 of mining, but I'm only one person. So I think that
23 if we are to, you know, consider that; just think
24 about the, mostly think about the animals and their
25 habitats and the vegetation out there, is what I'm --
10
1 my biggest concern is at this time.

2 RAYMOND BEGAY: My wife and I, we're
3 in support of the withdrawal. I mean, the uranium or
4 whatever it is, the proposal and everything. I mean,
5 they say like 20 years. So that's what we're in
6 support of.

7 BILLY HUSKIE, JR.: This is more
8 concern of lands and the people issues. There are
9 many issues that I'm concerned about, as well as
10 others on the Navajo Nation, and on the national
11 forest lands, United States. For instance, I think
12 we're more concerned about what the future lies ahead
13 for the Navajo Nation, the land, politically,
14 economically, culturally. But most important, I think
15 the majority of our people are concerned about the
16 future of the land itself, what it will look like,
17 what the future of the land will be.

18 There's no other country in the world than
19 our land that has been devastated by natural resource
20 extraction issues. For instance, uranium mining,
21 which continues to devastate our community, our
22 people, our water, our DNAs. But now it's gotten to
23 the part where it's gotten to the most valuable
24 resource, our water. That's where it's all leading
25 to. It's going to be the water.

11

1 And land is the center life of Navajo people
2 on the reservation. Most of our land has been taken,
3 but there are, there have been many -- our people have
4 always been independent in terms of how we live, how
5 we communicate, how we take care of ourselves, stuff
6 like that.

7 So, but what motivates me more is what our
8 grandchildren are going to be breathing, what our
9 grandchildren are going to be eating, what our
10 grandchildren are going to be farming due to a lot of
11 the uranium mines that are on reservation and public
12 land. So that is more of my -- I just kind of oppose
13 a lot of the uranium mining on the reservation and in
14 the public lands. Government lands, also. So that's
15 my concern. Thank you.

16 JUNE YELLOW: Well, I'm against the
17 mining because I've lost my dad and my younger
18 brother -- two younger brothers from colon cancer.
19 And my dad used to work in a mine here on the

20 reservation. So, because of that, I'm just completely
21 against it and wouldn't want that to be brought
22 through here, because there's a lot of people that
23 live along the highway and I think it's pretty
24 dangerous.

25 So that was probably all my concern I have.

12

1 I wouldn't want my grandkids to go through all of that
2 from what my parents had to go through, dealing with
3 the deaths of my siblings, you know, and also my tad.
4 So that is all my concern.

5 VALERIE KENNETH: Hi. My concerns are
6 related to a lot of the geological preserving the area
7 and the ground, the water. I'm still learning about
8 the watershed portion of the study, and I understand
9 it's an ongoing learning study, collecting data and
10 all that to, you know, to be concerned with. I'm
11 reading; I'm still trying to absorb everything.

12 A lot of the issues that I'm concerned with
13 is for the human portion of it, the health reasons,
14 the health -- anything related to the health of the
15 humans. So, that's just my statement. And I'm pretty
16 much opposed to a lot of the mining. And that's just
17 where I stand on this issue. That's all I have to
18 say.

19 (The proceedings concluded at 6:52

20 p.m.,

21 April 25, 2011.)

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I, Annette Satterlee, RPR, CRR, do hereby
certify that I am an Arizona Certified Reporter,
Certificate No. 50179.

I further certify that these proceedings
were taken in shorthand by me at the time and place
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I further certify that I am not related to,
employed by, nor of counsel for any of the parties or
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DATED this 29th day of April, 2011, at
Flagstaff, Arizona.

Annette Satterlee, RPR, CRR
Arizona Certified Reporter #50179

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