MR. DEVINNEY: Welcome everyone. We can dispense with the formalities. You know why you're here, we know why we're here. And we have a panel of two people, from the Department of Energy and from the Forest Service, and their names are out front. And they have a short introduction. Julia will give a short introduction and then we'll take your comments.
You can provide verbal comments here and then provide written comments later if you wish. There are instructions there if you also want to reach them on the web. But in light of the anthrax testing in Washington DC, you might not want to use the U.S. postal service. We might not be able to read your comments.

MS. SOUDER: Good evening, everybody. Thank you very much for coming here tonight. I don't think that our mic is working. If you can't hear me, I will move to that one. Ron is leaving. He is on our panel, and Maryanne from the Forest Service.

MS. KURTINAITIS: I am out of the Washington office, just about the last nine months that I have moved there, and I am in the
Lands and Reality Management Program there.

MS. SOUDER: When Ron comes back from working on the microphone, we'll introduce him.

I am the western regional coordinator for the Office of Electricity, Delivery, and Energy Liability and the project manager for the Section 368, which is the section and energy policy act that was recently passed, and passed in August of 2005. It directs the secretary of agriculture, commerce, defense, energy, and interior to designate energy corridors under our respective authorities on federal lands in eleven western states within two years, which is August of 2007. So we're already a year and a half into it.

Key of designations will occur in the land use management processes. The land use determining that designating corridors is required by -- is required by the energy bill, which is a major federal action. What we're intending to do is prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement to address three things. One, to look at the proposed action and range of reasonable alternatives that were outlined in the notice of intent that was published in September 28, and really encouraging public participation. It's crucial to our process that we really hear as much as we can from the various groups and perspectives out west.

The intent of the scoping meeting is to solicit public comments for consideration in establishing the scope and contents of the programmatic EIS. The federal agencies, public interest groups, Native American tribes, businesses, environmental associations, and members of the public are all, hopefully, notified and participate in the comment process to help refine some of the preliminary alternatives that we addressed in the notice of intent.

We are holding these meetings in 11 western cities, and you will have a published
document in January/February '06 with all of the formal comments that were made at all of the meetings. And the best way to access this is if you go to the website, which is posted there. And also, another way to comment, there is a box that you can go to and click and say, Yes, please keep me updated on upcoming events, upcoming notices, upcoming reports. So it's a great way for all of us to stay communicating.

Also, another way to comment is the comment forms that we have that were given to you in your packets. This is great. If you don't want to come up and speak, you can also fill this out and leave it here or mail it in, if that's what you are comfortable with. Also, faxing, and as Bob mentioned, mailing -- it's probably better to mail express mail, FedEx or UPS, or your preferable courier because it is an issue with going through the anthrax screening. It will delay it a little bit. And also, sometimes the materials are either crumpled up or disfigured.

And also, if you are really curious and you want to read more tonight before you go to the website, there is a great one-pager that answers a lot of questions regarding the work that we're doing.

The formal comments will be recorded in the official record, and during the formal presentation we would prefer not to have questions and answers. But if you feel like you want to make a comment in the form of a question, that's fine too.

We're going to turn off the recorder after formal comments, and we can break for informal discussion with agency representatives. Are there any agency representatives in the audience? Thank you very much for being here, and we look forward to discussions with you.

Please keep your comments to ten minutes, and then if we need a little extra time, I am sure we'll be flexible. And thank you again for participating, and it's really important that you are here, so we appreciate you taking the time.

Are there any elected officials or tribal representatives that wish to speak? We would ask if you could please turn off your cell phones and pagers so we can begin the meeting. I don't have any names of anyone, but would any of you like to come up and give your name and affiliation and enlighten us on your ideas for alternatives?

7:20. We can take a break for about 15 minutes and see if other people are still trying to get in and we can start again in 15 minutes, and go off the record. Thank you.
Untitled

RS

(Recess taken.)

MS. SOUDER: Thank you, guys. And looking
at my watch, after taking a break -- took a
little longer. It's 8:05. Does anyone else
have any comments?

I see none. We will close this session
again until further notice, but we will be here
to answer any questions off the record. Thank
you very much. We really appreciate you being
here.

(HEARING ADJOURNED AT 8:09 P.M.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, ROSEMARY TANZER, a Certified Shorthand
Reporter for Oregon and Registered Professional
Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported the
proceedings had upon the hearing of this
matter, previously captioned herein; that I
transcribed my said stenotype notes through
computer-aided transcription; and, that the
foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true
and accurate record of all testimony adduced
and proceedings had upon the hearing of said
matter, and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand at Portland, Oregon, this
11th day of November, 2005.

CSK CERTIFICATE 94-0299