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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING OF THE WEST-WIDE
ENERGY CORRIDOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

OCTOBER 25, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

MEETING 1-B

HELD AT:

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER
700 - 14TH STREET
DENVER, COLORADO

1 There's four ways to submit comments in this
2 process, and we have them here identified in the
3 poster. We also have an up and running website and
4 the address is over here. You probably received
5 one of these summary statements when you checked
6 in, and that has some additional information about
7 scoping and those addresses I mentioned before.

8 We're going to ask those people that wish to
9 give formal comment tonight that we will record, to
10 come up here and provide their comments. And if
11 you have a hard copy of them which to leave with
12 us, that's fine. You're comments will be entered
13 into the official record for scoping. And, at the
14 conclusion of those formal comments, we'll turn off
15 the record and have more of an informal discussion
16 during that time frame. So, we have at this point,
17 two people that have signed up and we might as well
18 go ahead and kick it off.

19 So, Heath Nero, with the Wilderness Society.
20 Just re-state your name and who you're
21 representing, we'll appreciate it.

C007

22 NERO: Hello, my name is Heath Nero.
23 It's H- E-A-T-H N-E-R-0. And I'm representing the
24 Wilderness Society tonight.

25 First, I'd like to thank the Bureau of Land

1 Management, the Department of Energy and the U.S.
2 Forest Service for the opportunity to comment here
3 tonight.

4 The Wilderness Society, founded in 1935,
5 strives to deliver to future generations an
6 unspoiled legacy of wild places. Our 250,000
7 members nationwide are dedicated to ensuring that
8 the remaining wild places remain wild. In that
9 vein, I would like to offer our initial public
10 comments on the West-Wide Energy Corridor
11 Programmatic EIS.

12 Earlier today, you heard a number of comments
13 from the energy industry urging for categorical
14 exclusions to the requirements of the National
15 Environmental Policy Act -- NEPA. Further, these
16 energy industry representatives asked for
17 streamlined processes to expand the energy corridor
18 network that this EIS will identify in the end.

19 The Wilderness Society urges you to focus on
20 stewardship of our public lands and not provide for
21 broad categorical exclusions or streamlining of
22 important environmental policy requirements that
23 protect our water, air and wild places. While the
24 Wilderness Society applauds your efforts to
25 identify energy corridors and to view their

1 location in a broad landscape context, we ask that
2 you adhere to the following three guidelines.

3 First, the EIS must ensure that no energy
4 corridor is located in a designated wilderness
5 area, wilderness study area, area of critical
6 environmental concern, roadless area, citizen
7 proposed wilderness area, or national landscape
8 conservation land.

9 Secondly, the EIS must ensure that visual
10 resource management is considered and factored in
11 with designating corridors.

12 Third, the EIS must ensure that best
13 management practices are explicitly detailed and
14 mandated to ensure that impacts on natural
15 resources are limited.

16 The Bureau of Land Management recently
17 undertook a Programmatic EIS for wind energy
18 development. Although we did not support every
19 part of the EIS, overall, this Programmatic EIS did
20 accomplish the three criteria I listed above. Those
21 working on the West-Wide Energy Programmatic EIS
22 should, likewise, consider and use these three
23 criteria to help formulate the Record of Decision
24 for this EIS.

25 The Wilderness Society, along with our

1 conservation partners across the west, will
2 continue to monitor this process and will provide
3 written comments in advance of the November 28th
4 deadline.

5 Again, thank you, very much, for your time.
6 The Wilderness Society looks forward to working
7 with you to develop a PEIS to ensure that energy
8 can be transported safely, without comprising the
9 west's greatest resource, it's wild and [garbled]
10 lands.

C008

11 POWERS: Thank you. Our next commentor
12 is Bud Anderson with Northern Lights Transmission.

13 ANDERSON: Again, my name is Bud
14 Anderson, representing the Northern Lights
15 Projects.

16 TransCanada Corporation is one of North
17 America's leading infrastructure companies, with
18 more than \$18 Billion in assets. That's U.S.
19 Dollars. Out of that \$18 Billion, we have
20 approximately \$15.3 Billion in natural gas assets,
21 natural gas pipelines, etc. The power end of that
22 is about \$2.5 Billion. As you can see, we're a
23 pretty substantial company throughout North
24 America.

25 Although TransCanada is best known for our