

Hi, I'm Christy Gerrits. I'm representing myself and the Powder River Basin Resource Council. It's often said that electricity -- that coal is a very cheap source of power in generating electricity, and it may be that until you take into account the cost of climate change. I looked at the insurance agency to try and find something that was a neutral party in looking at how they do it. And Dr. Evan Mills, a staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory published a report on how the insurance agencies are trying to respond to climate change, and I quote: "There is a growing acknowledgement among insurers that the impact of climate change on future insured losses is likely to be profound. The chairman of Lloyd's of London has said that climate change is the number one issue for the massive insurance group. "And Europe's largest insurer Allianz states that climate change stands to increase insured losses from extreme events in an average year by 37 percent within just a decade. Losses in a bad year could top \$1 trillion. "Allstate says that climate change has prompted it to cancel or not renew policies in many Gulf Coast states, with recent hurricanes wiping out all of the profits that it had garnered in 75 years of selling homeowners insurance. The company has cut the number of homeowners policies in Florida from 1.2 million to 400,000 with an ultimate target of no more than 100,000." That is just one of many industries being affected by climate change. Last week the level of CO2 in the atmosphere rose to 407.5 parts per million. The historic average or the historic high was 288 -- 80 parts per million. This 407.5 parts per million is the highest level measured in over 800,000 years. Coal-fired electric power plants were responsible for a quarter of the CO2 emitted by the U.S. In May [sic] 22, 2016, 170 countries worldwide came together and signed the Paris climate change agreement, the largest group of countries to ever agree on any international issue. These countries agreed with virtually all scientists that a climate change is an imminent threat to life on earth through the disruption of climate. Rising sea levels, ocean acidification, more severe weather, including protracted droughts and extended wildfire season. To date in the U.S., close to one-and-a-half million acres have already burned, and the 10-year average for up to this date is only one million. When deciding (inaudible) coal mines and (inaudible) we need

to take into account the cost of climate change which we are probably starting to experience. Thank you very much.