

MS. FRASER: Good afternoon. [Indiscernible]. My name is Anna Fraser. I'm from the Navajo Nation. I live on the, on the Reservation near -- North of Winslow, Arizona. And I, I -- I'm with [indiscernible] Citizens Against [indiscernible] Our Environment. An environmental group of people that have been fighting against the, the devastation of environmental injustices throughout our Navajo Nation for the past -- close to 30 years. So, my concern is about the impact of coal mining. Not only just coal mining, but there's a lot of other minerals, such as uranium and oil and gas and whatnot that's going on on our Reservation. And the problem with that is that the Federal regulations that are supposed to have been protecting the citizens of the communities throughout our nation, does not really have that strength or whatever. I mean it's not being utilized enough to protect the people that are impacted. Because we have on our Reservation, there's two [indiscernible]. One on Black Mesa, that produces coal. And it transports it over to a Navajo generating station right along the [indiscernible] right along the Colorado River. And that, that power plant pumps water from Parker, Arizona. And then, it, it sends the water to Phoenix, Arizona, where they water their plants and build swimming pools and, and golf courses and whatnot. But, here on our Reservation, we are -- you know we, we're fighting for the water, as well, because we're in a drought area. So, those at the things that are, are very concerning for us. And there's also another power plant over at the Navajo, Navajo Mine. There's a Navajo Mine, a coal mine. And then, right next to it, is the San Juan generator station that's near Farmington, New Mexico. And, and from that, power is also going down to [indiscernible] City, Arizona, and then on to Phoenix, too. So, we don't see any of the power that, that is going off of our Reservation at all. So, in the -- and, and what happens there with that is that the power is -- it goes down to Phoenix. And our Navajo Tribe has to buy the power back to Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, which is the only utility company for our Reservation. So, we have to almost like double -- it's a double pay -- oh, goodness, it's [indiscernible]. Anyway, I just wanted to say that it's really devastating for our, our Navajo people to be in that situation.

We need the Federal policies to, to cover, you know -- we need these [indiscernible] hearings out there, too, as well. We want to be a part of -- that's why I travel about seven hours to get here. But, I didn't finish my speech. Thank you.

MS. PATTERSON: Thank you. Of course, we always encourage the leaving of your written comments, as well.

MR. COWAN: My name is Vince Cowan. I'm representing West Elk Mine, also my family. When I say family, it's not just my wife and two kids. It's the 200 guys I still work with, the 900 in the North Fork Valley that have lost their jobs.

We as coal miners are family, no matter what -- who you work for, where you work. [Indiscernible] my crew asked me to come and try and be a representative for them.

Three weeks ago, there were 50 of us. Today, there's 20 left. We had a big workforce reduction that devastated a lot of people in our mine and in our Valley. They're not so diluted to think that it's a problem that the company had. They realize that it's the policies of the administration, the problems with the moratorium on new leases, and everything that we're fighting an uphill battle on.

I'd ask you to reconsider the moratorium. Try to end it as soon as possible. It's going to help all of us. My wife and I -- we were talking the other night about what will we -- what we would have to do if I were to be laid off. The only answer is move from North Fork Valley right now. I've heard a lot of discussion about wanting to find ways to help coal miners. Yet have I heard a good idea for that.

Right now keeping us working, keeping coal produced safely. [Indiscernible] is probably the best bet. And I'd ask you to consider that. My daughter unfortunately heard us talking about it -- being laid off. She's nine. And now she has to worry, too, about is dad going to lose his job and we have move? And that's not something any nine-year-old should have to do. So, I thank you for your time.