

MS. SUSSORS: Hello. My name is Kenneth Sussors.

I'm a physician here in Grand Junction, practicing internal medicine and emergency medicine.

I'm going to be addressing the health impacts of using coal as an energy source. Processing and burning fossil fuels contributes significantly to air pollution, which in turn causes health problems, especially in the oldest and youngest and those with pulmonary disease.

As a doctor, I've seen these health problems firsthand, especially here at the VA with its vulnerable population. These health affects are caused both directly by inhaling harmful chemicals and particles and indirectly by upsetting the balance of nature and weather.

This discussion is specifically about coal. So, I will not address other fossil fuels, other than to say that they each have their own specific harmful health affects. And these affects are additive.

Coal is particularly significant due to the high concentration and wide range of harmful particles and chemicals it produces and the large amount of coal that America uses to generate heat and power.

The ideas I'm presenting today are not just my own personal opinions. They are evidence-based. The world's scientists have been studying the health effects of coal for decades and have accumulated a vast database indicating that the health effects are indeed extremely harmful. These findings are not controversial. They are

universally acknowledged as scientifically valid. For those who are interested in understanding this scientific evidence, I would recommend a publication titled Scientific Evidence of Health Effects from Coal Use in Energy Generation.

Again, for those interested, the publication is Scientific Evidence of Health Effects from Coal Use in Energy Generation. And it is easily available on the internet.

It's produced by the Healthcare Research Collaborative, based at the University of Illinois. It's a summary of documents that the use of coal as an energy source has multiple, large-scale, serious worldwide health effects, including illness and considerable death rates related to respiratory, cardiac, and neurologic diseases, as well as cancers and adverse effects on pregnancies and developing fetuses.

In conclusion, the scientific evidence for adverse health effects stemming from using coal as an energy source is overwhelming. In fairness to the human race and all other

living species and the planet itself, it is an urgent medical and ecological imperative to take a more comprehensive approach to our fuel choices and move vigorously towards clean energy sources.

Certainly our own government, tasked with protecting its citizenship and protecting its environment, should take a lead role in safe energy development for our country. Thank you.