

Meeting 2-6.11.15

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PUBLIC MEETING
FOR THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
PROPOSED TONGUE RIVER RAILROAD

LAME DEER, MONTANA

JUNE 11, 2015

6:34 P.M. MT

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1 THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015

2 6:34 P.M. MT

3 LAME DEER, MONTANA

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06:34:33 5 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're
06:34:33 6 about to begin the public meeting. I would like to
06:34:36 7 introduce, from the Surface Transportation Board,
06:34:38 8 Mr. Ken Blodgett.

06:34:39 9 Ken?

06:34:41 10 KEN BLODGETT: Hello. Thank you all for
06:34:43 11 coming this evening, and I would like to thank the
06:34:47 12 Northern Cheyenne for inviting us to hold this meeting
06:34:51 13 in this beautiful space this evening. So we really do
06:34:55 14 appreciate being here.

06:34:57 15 Again, my name is Ken Blodgett, and with me is
06:35:00 16 Catherine Nadals, and we are here representing the
06:35:04 17 Surface Transportation Board's Office of Environmental
06:35:05 18 Analysis.

06:35:12 19 Also seated at the table with me is Alan
06:35:15 20 Summerville, the project manager with ICF International,
06:35:21 21 and our facilitator this evening will be Jennifer
06:35:26 22 Piggott, also with ICF International.

06:35:30 23 The Surface Transportation Board is the
06:35:32 24 federal agency responsible for the economic regulation
06:35:36 25 of interstate surface transportation within the

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06:35:40 1 United States and for granting authority for the
06:35:42 2 construction and operation of new rail lines and
06:35:47 3 associated facilities.

06:35:48 4 The board's mission is to ensure that
06:35:52 5 competitive, efficient, and safe transportation services
06:35:54 6 are provided to meet the needs of shippers, receivers,
06:35:59 7 and consumers. In all of its decisions, the board is
06:36:04 8 committed to advancing the national transportation
06:36:07 9 policy goals established by Congress.

06:36:10 10 The Office of Environmental Analysis, or OEA,
06:36:14 11 is responsible for ensuring that the board is in
06:36:18 12 compliance with the requirements of the National
06:36:19 13 Environmental Policy Act. We fulfill this
06:36:24 14 responsibility through independent environmental review
06:36:27 15 of railroad actions, which require the board's approval.

06:36:32 16 On October 16th, 2012, the Tongue River
06:36:35 17 Railroad Company filed an application with the Surface
06:36:39 18 Transportation Board to construct and operate a rail
06:36:43 19 line from Miles City, Montana, to two endpoints near
06:36:47 20 Ashland.

06:36:48 21 On December 17th, 2012, Tongue River Railroad
06:36:52 22 filed a supplemental application in which it identified
06:36:55 23 its preferred alternative as the Colstrip alternative,
06:37:01 24 between Colstrip and the Ashland area.

06:37:05 25 The Surface Transportation Board is the lead

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06:37:07 1 agency responsible for preparing the Draft Environmental
06:37:11 2 Impact Statement. Four cooperating agencies worked with
06:37:16 3 the Surface Transportation Board in preparing the Draft
06:37:19 4 EIS: The Bureau of Land Management, the Corps of
06:37:22 5 Engineers, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and
06:37:26 6 Montana state agencies. These cooperating agencies all
06:37:30 7 have decision-making authority independent of the board
06:37:34 8 and are agencies from which Tongue River Railroad would
06:37:37 9 obtain separate approvals or permits prior to
06:37:40 10 construction.

06:37:43 11 The purpose of tonight's meeting is for the
06:37:46 12 Surface Transportation Board to receive comments, both
06:37:49 13 oral and written, on the Draft Environmental Impact
06:37:50 14 Statement, which was served and made available for
06:37:55 15 public review and comment on April 17.

06:37:59 16 The Draft Environmental Impact Statement
06:38:01 17 reflects our analysis of the potential environmental
06:38:05 18 impacts that could result from the construction and
06:38:08 19 operation of the proposed rail line. Public involvement
06:38:13 20 is an important component in the environmental review
06:38:16 21 process. Our hope is that the comments you provide to
06:38:20 22 us this evening will ensure that our office fully
06:38:23 23 addresses your concerns and the potential environmental
06:38:26 24 impacts that can result from the construction and
06:38:28 25 operation of the proposed line, as well as appropriate

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06:38:33 1 mitigation measures.

06:38:35 2 The Draft EIS public comment period will end
06:38:39 3 on August 24th, 2015. After the public comment period
06:38:45 4 has ended, our office will consider all comments
06:38:48 5 received and address each comment in the Final
06:38:51 6 Environmental Impact Statement, which will present our
06:38:56 7 final conclusions and recommendations for mitigating
06:39:00 8 possible environmental effects.

06:39:02 9 Issuance of the Final Environmental Impact
06:39:02 10 Statement will complete the board's environmental review
06:39:07 11 process. At that point, the board will make the final
06:39:11 12 decision on the proposed rail line construction. In
06:39:15 13 making that decision, the board will consider the entire
06:39:19 14 environmental record, all public comments received, the
06:39:23 15 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Final
06:39:25 16 Environmental Impact Statement, and our final
06:39:30 17 recommended environmental mitigation. No
06:39:35 18 project-related construction may begin until the board's
06:39:38 19 final decision has been issued and has become effective.

06:39:45 20 Those who have indicated that they would like
06:39:46 21 to make a public comment on the Draft EIS at this
06:39:51 22 meeting, which will be recorded by the court reporter,
06:39:53 23 will be called upon to speak in the order in which they
06:39:57 24 signed in.

06:39:59 25 If you would like to provide a handwritten

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06:40:01 1 comment today, comment forms can be located in the rear
06:40:04 2 of the room and there's boxes to place your comments in.
06:40:09 3 Written comments may also be mailed to the Surface
06:40:12 4 Transportation Board in Washington, D.C., or submitted
06:40:15 5 electronically on the project Web site,
06:40:19 6 tonguerivereis.com.

06:40:22 7 All oral and written comments will be given
06:40:25 8 equal weight and consideration. In preparing the
06:40:28 9 written comments, we encourage you to be as detailed as
06:40:31 10 possible regarding the contents of the Draft
06:40:34 11 Environmental Impact Statement.

06:40:38 12 That concludes my remarks. I would now like
06:40:40 13 to turn the floor over to Catherine Nadals to say a few
06:40:44 14 words.

06:40:44 15 Thank you.

06:40:45 16 CATHY NADALS: Thanks, Ken. I just wanted to
06:40:48 17 join Ken in thanking you so much for allowing us to have
06:40:50 18 the meeting here. We are very concerned about your
06:40:55 19 opinions, your comments, anything you have to say, any
06:41:01 20 concerns that you would like to express to us, either
06:41:03 21 tonight in the -- in oral comments or in written
06:41:06 22 comments. And I just want to say again thanks
06:41:09 23 [indiscernible] for the meeting.

06:41:14 24 Thank you.

06:41:19 25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you check if the PA 6

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06:41:20 1 system is working?

06:41:23 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I can't hear you.

06:41:25 3 KEN BLODGETT: I would like to turn over the
06:41:25 4 floor now to Alan Summerville, who will discuss the
06:41:29 5 environmental review process a little bit more.

06:41:37 6 CATHY NADALS: Can you hear that?

06:41:40 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Still can't hear you
06:41:41 8 through the speakers.

06:41:43 9 CATHY NADALS: Anybody here in charge of the
06:41:44 10 speakers? Can you turn the volume up?

06:41:47 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's as loud as it's
06:41:48 12 going to get.

06:41:53 13 ALAN SUMMERVILLE: Okay. Good evening.

06:41:55 14 During the open portion -- open house portion
06:41:57 15 of this meeting, we provided information on the
06:41:59 16 environmental review process and on the project. Now
06:42:03 17 I'd like to take just about three minutes to summarize
06:42:06 18 that information for those of you who didn't have a
06:42:07 19 chance to come to that part of the meeting or to provide
06:42:11 20 a recap for those of you who were here for that.

06:42:15 21 In the meeting brochure that we were handing
06:42:17 22 out at the front, and on the poster here to my left, we
06:42:21 23 have a figure that depicts the environmental review
06:42:24 24 process. To initiate the scoping process, OEA issued
06:42:29 25 notification of its intent to prepare an EIS to the

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06:42:32 1 public; elected officials; federal, state, and local
06:42:35 2 agencies; tribal organizations; and other potentially
06:42:41 3 interested organizations.

06:42:43 4 OEA issued a Draft Scope of Study and held
06:42:46 5 agency and public meetings to obtain comments on the
06:42:51 6 topics that the EIS should analyze and possible
06:42:53 7 alternatives to the Tongue River Railroad alignment.
06:42:57 8 Interested agencies and persons were invited to
06:43:01 9 participate in the scoping phase by reviewing the Draft
06:43:04 10 Scope of Study, submitting comments in writing, and
06:43:06 11 attending scoping meetings.

06:43:09 12 After considering the comments received
06:43:12 13 through the scoping process, the board published a
06:43:15 14 notice of Final Scope of Study for the EIS on
06:43:19 15 March 22nd, 2013. Throughout the development of the
06:43:25 16 Draft EIS, OEA met in person through teleconferences
06:43:31 17 with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as
06:43:33 18 tribes.

06:43:34 19 OEA prepared the Draft EIS by analyzing the
06:43:37 20 potential environmental impacts of the proposed Tongue
06:43:40 21 River Railroad and the reasonable alternatives,
06:43:42 22 including the "No-Action" alternative. The Draft EIS
06:43:47 23 also addresses the impacts of trains traveling to
06:43:49 24 destinations outside the project area, which are also
06:43:52 25 referred to as "downline impacts."

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06:43:56 1 Any of the build alternatives could have minor
06:43:58 2 to highly adverse impacts to the following resources:
06:44:04 3 Transportation, greenhouse gases, climate change, noise,
06:44:09 4 biological resources, water, visual, cultural and
06:44:14 5 historic resources, land resources, geology and soils,
06:44:21 6 socioeconomics, and environmental justice. All other
06:44:24 7 resources would experience negligible impacts.

06:44:27 8 The Draft EIS also includes OEA's preliminary
06:44:31 9 recommendations for environmental mitigation. These
06:44:35 10 mitigation measures will be considered by the board as
06:44:40 11 potential conditions if the board decides to grant --
06:44:48 12 oh, if the board decides to grant TRRC authority to
06:44:51 13 construct and operate the rail line.

06:44:56 14 The Draft EIS was distributed and made
06:44:59 15 available on April 24th to interested members of the
06:45:03 16 public; parties of record; elected officials; tribes;
06:45:06 17 and appropriate federal, state, and local agencies. OEA
06:45:11 18 provided extensive notification through various means to
06:45:14 19 the project area and downline communities.

06:45:17 20 As Ken stated, the Final EIS will consider and
06:45:20 21 respond to all comments on the Draft EIS and will
06:45:24 22 include any appropriate changes and recommendations for
06:45:27 23 additional mitigation measures. It will also identify
06:45:31 24 OEA's preferred alternative. Completion of the Final
06:45:35 25 EIS will be announced to the public in a Notice of

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06:45:38 1 Availability in the Federal Register and by notification
06:45:41 2 to interested parties.

06:45:44 3 At this time I'd like to hand the meeting over
06:45:46 4 to our facilitator, Jennifer Piggott, who will go over
06:45:48 5 some ground rules, and then we'll begin to hear public
06:45:51 6 comments.

06:45:52 7 Thank you.

06:46:02 8 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thanks, Alan.

06:46:04 9 Before we move into the oral comment period,
06:46:06 10 would anyone like to make use of the chairs here so you
06:46:09 11 don't have to stand? Please, help yourself.

06:46:15 12 We will now begin the oral comment portion of
06:46:17 13 tonight's meeting. Before we begin, I'd like to go over
06:46:20 14 a few things. If you haven't already done so, please
06:46:23 15 silence your cellphones so we don't interrupt the
06:46:27 16 meeting. If you would like to speak and haven't already
06:46:29 17 signed up, please raise your hand and we'll get you
06:46:31 18 registered to provide an oral comment.

06:46:39 19 A court reporter will transcribe your oral
06:46:41 20 comments for use in preparing the Final Environmental
06:46:44 21 Impact Statement. Please do not provide any personal
06:46:47 22 information in your comments that you would not want to
06:46:50 23 see in the final document. Please speak slowly and
06:46:53 24 clearly so that the court reporter can easily record
06:46:57 25 your comments.

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06:46:59 1 Please state your full name and spell it out
06:47:01 2 for the court reporter and indicate if you're
06:47:04 3 representing a group or organization this evening.

06:47:07 4 Out of respect for others, we ask that you
06:47:10 5 limit your comments to three minutes. If you think you
06:47:12 6 have more comments than you can make in that time,
06:47:16 7 please make the most important comments first. This
06:47:19 8 time limit has been set at each meeting to ensure
06:47:22 9 everyone who wishes to speak has a fair and equal
06:47:25 10 opportunity to provide their comments.

06:47:29 11 If you do not get a chance to voice all of
06:47:31 12 your comments, you can submit them in writing. If you
06:47:33 13 have a written statement already prepared, you may read
06:47:35 14 it aloud, and we'd also encourage you to submit it as a
06:47:38 15 written comment.

06:47:40 16 If time permits at the end of the meeting, we
06:47:42 17 will invite up additional speakers and anyone who did
06:47:44 18 not get a chance to finish their original comments.
06:47:48 19 Please feel free to provide comments in either written
06:47:50 20 or oral form. Both types of comments will have equal
06:47:54 21 weight in the final document.

06:47:56 22 Finally, this portion of the meeting allows
06:47:58 23 you to provide comments that will be transcribed. OEA
06:48:02 24 will not answer questions or respond to comments during
06:48:05 25 this portion of the meeting. OEA will respond to

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06:48:08 1 comments in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

06:48:11 2 This will allow as much time as possible for members of
06:48:13 3 the public to comment.

06:48:16 4 I will now call up the first speaker, which is
06:48:22 5 Curtis Elkshoulder. I'm sorry? Not here? Okay.

06:48:44 6 Our next speaker is William Walksalong.

06:48:48 7 WILLIAM WALKSALONG: Right here. Do I need
06:48:53 8 to --

06:48:54 9 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: If you would use the
06:48:55 10 microphone, it will help folks and the court reporter to
06:48:57 11 hear you a little bit better, please.

06:49:11 12 WILLIAM WALKSALONG: My name is William
06:49:12 13 Walksalong, W-i-l-l-i-a-m, W-a-l-k-s-a-l-o-n-g.

06:49:22 14 I'm the tribal administrator with the Northern
06:49:25 15 Cheyenne tribe. I work with the president's office,
06:49:28 16 Llevando Fisher's office. Reminded me this evening, oh,
06:49:38 17 this event has drawn some of the finest people, and I'm
06:49:42 18 glad you showed up.

06:49:46 19 One of the things that -- I'm reminded that
06:49:50 20 one of the most important things, first -- first, is to
06:49:56 21 make part of this -- this oral comment record is
06:49:58 22 President Fisher wrote a request for a 120-day extension
06:50:05 23 on May 12th, 2015, and I followed up with a telephone
06:50:10 24 call with Victoria Rutson, and on this letter that the
06:50:18 25 president wrote. And shortly thereafter, the STB

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06:50:26 1 granted a 60-day extension, and I had asked if the
06:50:32 2 120-day extension was completely off the table.

06:50:37 3 And the reply was that can't promise you
06:50:40 4 anything, but just do your best to make comments on the
06:50:46 5 Draft EIS. And I told Rutson that we are faced with two
06:50:52 6 very complex EISs, which is the basis of our request for
06:50:57 7 120 days. We not only have Tongue River Railroad, we
06:51:03 8 also have the Otter Creek Draft EIS that was released by
06:51:07 9 the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

06:51:12 10 And over the years the tribe has very limited
06:51:15 11 resources to analyze some of the technical or complex
06:51:20 12 data or information in these EISs. We've had to
06:51:25 13 contract at times with professional consultants to
06:51:30 14 analyze these computer models that are generated by the
06:51:35 15 lead agencies and these very complex EISs.

06:51:40 16 And I was told that there were at least 20
06:51:42 17 requests for an extension on the -- on this particular
06:51:48 18 EIS, our Draft EIS. But 100 -- 60 days was granted, and
06:51:55 19 more or less told me that the tribe's 120-day request
06:52:01 20 was probably not going to happen.

06:52:04 21 On the other hand, DEQ on the Otter Creek
06:52:08 22 Draft EIS did grant the tribe a 120-day extension, and I
06:52:15 23 think they're very both complex Draft EISs. You have
06:52:18 24 eleven -- or ten alternatives. We have a very limited
06:52:24 25 environmental staff, natural resources staff. We have

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06:52:30 1 one law firm that represents us in these types of
06:52:34 2 issues. So we're pretty standard, pretty thin in
06:52:38 3 responding to some of these very complex issues.

06:52:42 4 So I was asked to make this part of the record
06:52:46 5 and let our people know that the United States has not
06:52:50 6 granted this 120-day, similar to the DEQ's, our
06:52:58 7 requested DEQ, and them granting us 120-day. But I have
06:53:02 8 taken part in -- over the last 20 years, in
06:53:05 9 environmental statement development, and to me it's
06:53:12 10 always -- you know, it always is a reality that the
06:53:17 11 Northern Cheyenne tribes and other tribes have very
06:53:20 12 limited resources.

06:53:22 13 You know, even our contracting process, to
06:53:26 14 contract with a consultant takes 30 days or more. By
06:53:29 15 the time we're moving into getting the needed technical
06:53:33 16 expertise, the time frame is going to -- 60 days will
06:53:38 17 hit in no time. So we feel that pressure.

06:53:43 18 We've always felt that pressure, different
06:53:46 19 things that have come before our Northern Cheyenne
06:53:49 20 people, all these developments. And at the time when
06:53:55 21 they did the Powder River resource management plan,
06:53:58 22 volumes of information, and we have a limited staff,
06:54:04 23 limited resources for legal counsel.

06:54:08 24 I participated in the -- Governor Schweitzer's
06:54:13 25 summit, energy summit, and they asked me to give a

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06:54:17 1 perspective from the tribal point of view. The first
06:54:22 2 thing I told the crowd, I told them, remember our
06:54:28 3 Northern Cheyenne people and other Indian tribes are not
06:54:32 4 throwbacks to the Stone Age. We are not overly
06:54:34 5 superstitious people. We are very intelligent people.
06:54:39 6 And our world view goes back generations. Our tribal
06:54:45 7 government, our traditional tribal government precedes
06:54:49 8 the United States Government and Constitution. We know
06:54:53 9 how to govern ourselves. We know how to get our people
06:54:56 10 involved on critical issues like this.

06:55:01 11 We have a responsibility to comment, and I
06:55:08 12 really would like for the Surface Transportation Board
06:55:12 13 to consider the 120-day extension. That's something we
06:55:18 14 really need to have, and I was advised to get up and
06:55:22 15 make that point.

06:55:26 16 We have two parallel major
06:55:28 17 energy-development-related Draft EISs that are moving
06:55:32 18 forward, and there's massive opposition and proponents
06:55:38 19 to these two developments. And I will say this, and I
06:55:44 20 said this in the EIS development for the CBM
06:55:48 21 developments occurring: Our tribal leaders need to take
06:55:51 22 a look at the broad picture and not to separate them as
06:55:55 23 Tongue River Railroad and Otter Creek. They need to
06:55:58 24 consider the whole arena of energy development.

06:56:05 25 And I always remember one thing that an

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06:56:07 1 economist at the University of Montana said. He said,
06:56:11 2 you know -- and he was critical of coal development --
06:56:14 3 he said one thing that coal mines can get, I can
06:56:19 4 guarantee you, is ghost towns. They all come in and
06:56:25 5 they all leave, but the Cheyenne people are not going to
06:56:27 6 leave. We're going to be here and we need to express
06:56:33 7 ourselves, like we always have.

06:56:38 8 So I don't want to take too much time, but I
06:56:41 9 wanted to make that emphasis of the president's request
06:56:46 10 and to have the Surface Transportation Board reconsider,
06:56:52 11 reconsider the 120-day extension request.

06:56:56 12 So I thank you for your time.

06:57:00 13 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
06:57:01 14 comments.

06:57:03 15 Our next speaker this evening is Janis Spear.

06:57:19 16 JANIS SPEAR: Good evening. My name is Janis
06:57:21 17 Spear. It's spelled J-a-n-i-s, S-p-e-a-r.

06:57:30 18 I grew up here on the Northern Cheyenne
06:57:33 19 reservation, with a large part of it in and around the
06:57:37 20 Ashland area, and for as long as I can remember, my
06:57:41 21 family, relatives, the community have always opposed the
06:57:49 22 coal development. Many prayers and ceremonies have been
06:57:54 23 done, performed on behalf of the land we know as home.

06:58:01 24 You know, all natives believe that -- believe
06:58:03 25 in the sacredness of the earth, because of what it

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06:58:07 1 provides. You know, in the foretelling of Sweet
06:58:11 2 Medicine and in his warning to us that a certain people
06:58:16 3 would come and conquer the land because of what the
06:58:19 4 earth provides, you know, you would think that it's the
06:58:26 5 same thing that the earth provides for us, but in -- you
06:58:31 6 know, that there could not be a more blatant difference
06:58:35 7 in what the earth provides or the interpretation of
06:58:39 8 sacredness, you know, what it provides coal companies,
06:58:43 9 you know, development, people that are into development
06:58:48 10 and what the earth provides for us.

06:58:52 11 And, you know, every part of our home, of the
06:58:58 12 sacred -- I mean, the sacred, including the Tongue River
06:59:03 13 valley, the Otter Creek valley, it's sacred to the
06:59:08 14 Cheyenne, you know, for what it has and continues to
06:59:11 15 give us every season, every season of the year. You
06:59:15 16 know, not only for what it provides us, the provisions
06:59:20 17 such as wildlife plants and the way of life, but also
06:59:25 18 the fond memories that we have or the experiences that
06:59:29 19 we've had in those places. And, you know, those are
06:59:33 20 special to us. You know, I was just thinking the first
06:59:38 21 night of your hearings, how can that be mitigated? How
06:59:42 22 can our life experience be mitigated?

06:59:52 23 I went to a hearing in Miles City where MET
06:59:55 24 was proposing the pavement of the road north of Ashland
06:59:58 25 all the way into Miles City, and that's a road, not a

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07:00:03 1 railroad. But they had so much information put out for
07:00:08 2 people, you know, and I look at that and I look at this
07:00:16 3 and, you know, my -- I guess I'm curious. You know, I
07:00:21 4 see a lot of alternate routes, alternative routes, and
07:00:27 5 in my occupation, and well as in every occupation,
07:00:32 6 ethics are important. They're of significance, and, you
07:00:35 7 know, and what I do as a planner, I take that very
07:00:40 8 seriously. Environmental assessments, EISs, they're
07:00:43 9 done for proposed projects, especially if there are any
07:00:47 10 alternative routes.

07:00:50 11 And in order to do justice to whoever --
07:00:53 12 whatever is going to be impacted, we make certain that a
07:00:56 13 truthful and thorough assessment is done. I worry about
07:01:02 14 this, because I see that this just wasn't done, you
07:01:07 15 know, that the -- it's not thorough. Or if it was, it's
07:01:13 16 just grossly unjust, you know. A true miss was done.

07:01:18 17 You know, I just don't understand why it's
07:01:21 18 still being pursued, because of the -- well, other than
07:01:24 19 for money, but that doesn't last. The political and
07:01:29 20 economic power --

07:01:31 21 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Ma'am, I don't want the
07:01:32 22 baby to get too close to the electrical outlet.

07:01:39 23 JANIS SPEAR: I'm sorry.

07:01:41 24 The coal companies have a lot of power,
07:01:43 25 including and economically and that -- it forever

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07:01:52 1 changes the land that we call home, you know, in all
07:01:57 2 this area and the earth. How can something like that be
07:02:03 3 continued when coal development all over the world is
07:02:06 4 clearly destroying the earth? That and, you know, you
07:02:10 5 wonder why it's continuing when market value is
07:02:16 6 collapsing. You know, it doesn't make sense.

07:02:19 7 I speak for my family, my six children, my
07:02:22 8 grandchildren, and this absurd plan would definitely
07:02:27 9 impact my home, as well as my health and the physical,
07:02:32 10 mental, emotional, and spiritual health of everyone that
07:02:34 11 I love.

07:02:35 12 So thank you.

07:02:38 13 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:02:39 14 comments.

07:02:55 15 Our next speaker this evening is Kenneth
07:02:58 16 Medicine Bull.

07:03:25 17 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: I'm kind of hard of
07:03:26 18 hearing, so I didn't caught -- hear your instructions on
07:03:32 19 what we're supposed to do.

07:03:34 20 But since you're in my homeland, I want to
07:03:38 21 share a little bit of our culture, and then I want to
07:03:42 22 share my -- a comment. It's not going to take too long.
07:03:48 23 So if you would allow this, then I would appreciate it.
07:03:54 24 You guys come a long ways, and I want to thank you and I
07:03:57 25 want to thank everybody for being here.

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07:04:02 1 Is it all right?

07:04:06 2 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: I think you're just a

07:04:06 3 little too close to the microphone, sir.

07:04:10 4 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: What's that?

07:04:10 5 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: You're a little too close

07:04:11 6 to the microphone. If you could just bring --

07:04:14 7 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: How am I now?

07:04:16 8 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: That's great. Yep.

07:04:17 9 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: Do we have a

07:04:18 10 representative from ACI? Nobody? Tongue River

07:04:26 11 Railroad? Nobody?

07:04:31 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

07:04:33 13 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: Where? Over there.

07:04:35 14 How about Warren Buffett, is he here?

07:04:38 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

07:04:40 16 KENNETH MEDICINE BULL: How about that

07:04:40 17 millionaire -- billionaire, Mars, Mr. Mars, is he here?

07:04:46 18 Well, I want to ask my people to stand up.

07:04:51 19 I'm going to sing a song that was sung when we came to

07:04:54 20 the Otter Creek country. We're trying to show

07:05:00 21 solidarity that we love our land, we love our lifestyle,

07:05:04 22 we love where we live. We picked this country so that

07:05:11 23 it would not be disturbed as long as the sun shines.

07:05:18 24 So if you know the song, my good people, I

07:05:23 25 want you to sing along.

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07:05:42 1 (Speaking in native language.)

07:05:53 2 This song was sung by Chief Little Wolf. He's
07:05:55 3 the one that was, I guess, designated to survey the
07:06:04 4 area, Otter Creek and this area. And these mountains
07:06:10 5 here are separate from the Wolf Mountains. We're all
07:06:14 6 separated from them and (singing in native language).

07:09:04 7 Thank you.

07:09:24 8 My name is Kenneth Medicine Bull. I'm a Sun
07:09:27 9 Dance priest and a sacred grandfather with the
07:09:34 10 So'taa'eo'o nation. There's two tribes that live on
07:09:38 11 this reservation. One is the Northern Cheyenne and the
07:09:43 12 other's the So'taa'eo'o nation. And what a beautiful
07:09:54 13 day, all this beauty around us.

07:10:03 14 I want to share a little bit of our history.
07:10:07 15 I'd like to talk about Chief Little Wolf. Chief Little
07:10:09 16 Wolf was a So'taa'eo'o leader. He was known as a great
07:10:18 17 military tactician and made a dramatic escape from
07:10:22 18 confinement in Oklahoma back here to the northern
07:10:27 19 homelands in 1876.

07:10:30 20 If any people ever fought for liberty and
07:10:32 21 justice, it was the So'taa'eo'o people. That is why we,
07:10:41 22 as the original homesteaders of Otter Creek, believe
07:10:46 23 that this land is God-given to us. We don't own it now,
07:10:55 24 but we belong to it. If any people ever demonstrated
07:11:01 25 their physical and moral courage beyond travail, it was 21

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07:11:07 1 this race, the purely So'taa'eo'o heroes, among who
07:11:14 2 Little Wolf was the leader. At the time, Little Wolf
07:11:20 3 was a handsome man with the native dignity and
07:11:27 4 gentleness, musical voice and pleasant address of so
07:11:33 5 many brave leaders of the So'taa'eo'o people.

07:11:41 6 The early life of Little Wolf offered many
07:11:44 7 examples of the dashing bravery characteristics of the
07:11:49 8 So'taa'eo'o people, inspired the younger men to win
07:11:55 9 laurels for themselves. He was still a young man, 35,
07:12:03 10 perhaps, when the most trying crisis in the history of
07:12:07 11 his people came upon them.

07:12:14 12 He was a general who largely guided and
07:12:16 13 defended them in that tragic flight from the Indian
07:12:21 14 territory to their homeland in the north country.
07:12:27 15 Little Wolf told the federal government, We are going
07:12:33 16 back to our own country. We do not want to fight. As
07:12:42 17 he was riding near, when the soldiers fired and not a
07:12:49 18 single So'taa'eo'o made a charge, they succeeded in
07:12:53 19 holding off the troops for two days. The troops
07:12:57 20 retreated. The So'taa'eo'o people continued northward,
07:13:00 21 carrying their wounded.

07:13:05 22 This sort of thing was repeated over and over.
07:13:13 23 When they reached the buffalo country, Little Wolf
07:13:18 24 always kept his main object in sight. He was such
07:13:23 25 ordinary, calm. Little Wolf did not seem like a human

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07:13:27 1 being. He seemed like a bear. It is true that a man of
07:13:34 2 his type in a crisis becomes spiritually transformed and
07:13:40 3 moves as one in a dream.

07:13:52 4 Little Wolf stayed all winter in the
07:13:56 5 Sandhills, where there was plenty of game and no white
07:13:59 6 men. Later he went to Montana and then went to Pine
07:14:06 7 Ridge, where he and his people remained in peace until
07:14:09 8 they were moved to Montana. Here he spent the remainder
07:14:12 9 of his days.

07:14:14 10 There is a clear sky beyond the clouds of
07:14:18 11 racial prejudice, and in that kind of court of honor a
07:14:25 12 noble soul like that of Little Wolf has a place. For
07:14:40 13 all those that live in this beautiful place, may the
07:14:44 14 Creator bless this place as he had created. We need to
07:14:49 15 be more like Little Wolf, showing dignity, kindness, and
07:14:56 16 above all integrity to each other.

07:15:05 17 Not too long ago we blessed a totem pole here
07:15:09 18 in the Otter Creek valley, to be transported to the West
07:15:12 19 Coast, to show everyone our dignity to the sacred
07:15:17 20 ground. We want to continue a livelihood free of
07:15:20 21 destruction, from here to the West Coast and throughout
07:15:25 22 the world and various other places.

07:15:31 23 That day, a line was drawn in the ground,
07:15:32 24 which meant from that day forward no more destruction to
07:15:37 25 our land, water, and air, and our unique lifestyles,

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07:15:42 1 especially different cultures that live here: A
07:15:55 2 So'taa'eo'o culture; a Northern Cheyenne culture; the
07:15:59 3 Amish culture; and, of course, people who believe in the
07:16:06 4 code of the west, farmers and ranchers -- Mr. McRae over
07:16:11 5 there -- different ones who have been fighting this.
07:16:18 6 And this has been going on for over 100 years. It's
07:16:24 7 nothing new.

07:16:27 8 There's no excuse for ignorance of the
07:16:32 9 process. I've been following this for 30 years, and
07:16:38 10 when it comes to submitting some kind of advice to the
07:16:46 11 tribal council, first they ask, Are you against coal
07:16:51 12 development? And if you say yes, then they don't listen
07:16:53 13 to you.

07:16:59 14 A cultural resources survey assessment of
07:17:04 15 Colstrip alternative route for the proposed Tongue River
07:17:07 16 Railroad was initiated and completed by Chris Finley and
07:17:12 17 his group, who were mostly Native American. At the
07:17:18 18 request of the Sierra Club and the Culture Alternative
07:17:20 19 Landowners Group [verbatim], this is his summary:
07:17:26 20 "Overall, the quality of the survey documentation and
07:17:31 21 maps was problematic, was inaccurate, and incomplete
07:17:36 22 documentation provided on most of the site forms.
07:17:41 23 Several of the 7.5 plot maps provided with site forms
07:17:46 24 and even the project maps at sites plotted in the wrong
07:17:50 25 place or omitted from the maps." We've found more

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07:17:56 1 lithic material on the majority of the site. ICF
07:18:02 2 documented specific scatters. And in one case a list --
07:18:09 3 a site listed as -- listed as lithic ice, in it was four
07:18:15 4 artifacts, turned out to be a large concentration of
07:18:18 5 lithic material with an obvious buried component.

07:18:26 6 There were also several sites that were
07:18:27 7 misidentified, and it was questionable if some of the
07:18:33 8 sites were even cultural or old enough to be considered
07:18:37 9 historic properties. I think that is why the Northern
07:18:42 10 Cheyenne tribe requested an extension of your comment
07:18:48 11 period so they can have the opportunity to comment on
07:18:50 12 the data collected during the documentation process.

07:18:58 13 I am not even amazed by your Pinocchio logic,
07:19:02 14 that you are capable of making a decision on this
07:19:06 15 speculation. Arch Coal is going broke and is acting
07:19:14 16 like a trinket salesman.

07:19:19 17 Go with the no alternative and it's very
07:19:23 18 simple. Two-letter word. No to this proposal. We
07:19:31 19 don't need it. It's only being done for Asia. None of
07:19:42 20 it's going to be beneficial to us and it's not in the
07:19:47 21 public good. If you love your children, your
07:19:53 22 grandchildren, your spouses, your parents, and on and
07:20:00 23 on, through that love, I ask you don't allow this.

07:20:20 24 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:20:20 25 comments.

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07:20:21 1 Our next speaker this evening is James
07:20:23 2 Walksalong.

07:20:36 3 JAMES WALKSALONG: Can you hear me? Well,
07:20:41 4 good evening, people. Glad everyone could make it
07:20:47 5 tonight.

07:20:49 6 Welcome, you from Surface Transportation. I'd
07:20:54 7 like to welcome the area landowners, the ranchers. My
07:20:59 8 name is Homa'e Ôhma'haata, translated Big Beaver. My
07:21:07 9 English name is James Walksalong, W-a-l-k-s-a-l-o-n-g.
07:21:15 10 I am the tribal historic preservation officer for the
07:21:18 11 Northern Cheyenne tribe, and I've been instructed to
07:21:25 12 reiterate what my brothers spoke before.

07:21:32 13 You're the permitting federal agent to allow
07:21:37 14 extensions. As of now, you have not consulted with me
07:21:44 15 and my department, and that is a mandatory thing. Our
07:21:51 16 president and our tribal government and our tribal
07:21:56 17 people have a great concern on what is about to impact
07:22:04 18 their livelihood, along with all the people that are
07:22:06 19 involved in this. And I express their concern.

07:22:13 20 All we want is 120 days to do what all needs
07:22:18 21 to be done on our part, and it's not looked at. My
07:22:26 22 people have always been dealt the short end all the
07:22:31 23 time, and it's time that we speak up. My advice to you
07:22:39 24 is to bring this back to the table with my department.

07:22:42 25 I have never received any kind of

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07:22:44 1 documentations as to the letters that has been issued
07:22:50 2 out, not even asked for my comment. So what's going on
07:22:56 3 there? I saw the letters to the state SHPO, to Stan
07:23:03 4 Wilmoth. I never received a letter from the Virginia
07:23:07 5 lot. I should have been concurred and CC'd a copy, but
07:23:13 6 I was never done that.

07:23:21 7 All the pictures that you see, I am the person
07:23:25 8 that explored and looked for all these culture
07:23:29 9 resources. State SHPO and the tribal historic
07:23:35 10 preservation are as equals. Not once was I ever asked
07:23:41 11 to re -- request a comment on all these historic sites.
07:23:49 12 Not once. They took for granted and they ran with it.
07:23:54 13 So we need to go back to the table and talk about it,
07:23:58 14 people.

07:24:02 15 I have a letter from the tribal president
07:24:08 16 stating that we need 120 days just to do what the work
07:24:13 17 what we need to do on our part, so we can be satisfied.

07:24:20 18 I have a letter here addressed to the governor
07:24:22 19 of the state of Montana, Steve Bullock, also the state
07:24:29 20 senator, Jon Tester, asking for them to extend 120 days.
07:24:36 21 120 days is not enough, to tell you the truth, to do our
07:24:44 22 part. We need to go back to the table and actually sit
07:24:52 23 down with our leaders to discuss this here railroad.

07:24:57 24 And like my brothers said, we have two major
07:25:00 25 EISS: We've got the Tongue River Railroad, we've got

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07:25:05 1 the Otter Creek. And I've been on the Otter Creek. I
07:25:08 2 did the survey for that.

07:25:15 3 And I speak for my people. You hear the song,
07:25:22 4 you heard the song that was said and the short prayer
07:25:26 5 with it. They're asking the Creator to put good words
07:25:31 6 and proper words to come out to speak to you. And I've
07:25:37 7 always been told that when we sit at tables like this
07:25:42 8 and sit and talk about this, the truth has to be heard.
07:25:46 9 And I'm a man that believes in that. The truth has to
07:25:53 10 be told.

07:25:57 11 This here whole process has been expedited in
07:26:02 12 a short time. The draft PA that I've been working and I
07:26:07 13 studied it, there's some components that have not been
07:26:11 14 met that I am not satisfied with, on behalf of my
07:26:16 15 people, on behalf of my tribal government. I have --
07:26:20 16 never have put people out to do an ethnographic study.
07:26:25 17 Ethnobotany, the study of plants and animals, that has
07:26:30 18 never been done. Nothing, none of it. None of my
07:26:34 19 people have been out there.

07:26:35 20 So you're pushing and expediting this. I've
07:26:43 21 never been consulted. That is part of Section 106. Two
07:26:50 22 presidential orders been issued by two presidents,
07:26:54 23 William Jefferson Clinton and more recently Barack
07:26:57 24 Obama. People, it's paramount that they talk to the
07:27:04 25 tribes, and we have an invested [sic] interest in the

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07:27:08 1 stake in this, people.

07:27:11 2 We need to sit down and do this right. That's
07:27:17 3 all I'm asking is to do it right. These people wouldn't
07:27:21 4 be here if it wasn't. So I'm going to tell you: Follow
07:27:28 5 the process. I know about it. I've studied it.

07:27:35 6 You talk about time frames. To us, we need to
07:27:41 7 take time and move slowly at this, because it's going to
07:27:45 8 be an impact, not just for the Cheyenne people, but for
07:27:51 9 everyone out there. The railroad has impacted our
07:27:55 10 people for generations. It has. And this here is a
07:28:04 11 modern-day impact with the railroad.

07:28:07 12 I got after Governor Marc Racicot when he
07:28:10 13 issued that change for the gold mine in Jardine. He
07:28:17 14 opted off for the Otter Creek and the Powder River
07:28:20 15 country, our homeland. It goes back. I've been
07:28:25 16 following this here. I know the impacts of it.

07:28:33 17 I will be getting in contact with you. I
07:28:34 18 still have to do my report and give it to you people.
07:28:39 19 And I strongly think you should consider it, my report,
07:28:44 20 in that, because I walked that there. I walked that out
07:28:47 21 there. I know what's out there. I worked with the
07:28:51 22 people that did your Draft EIS, and not one of them have
07:28:57 23 ever consulted with me, concurred with me on it. So
07:29:02 24 that's all I got to say.

07:29:06 25 Have a good evening.

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07:29:14 1 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:29:15 2 comments.

07:29:15 3 Our next speaker is Terry Punt.

07:29:30 4 TERRY PUNT: My name is Terry Punt, and I'm a
07:29:32 5 rancher from Birney, Montana. I came to this area in
07:29:39 6 1979, and my first job was in Sheridan, Wyoming. I
07:29:43 7 worked for a developer, bought real estate. Been in
07:29:48 8 Denver. Been in Wheatland, Wyoming, where they built a
07:29:52 9 power plant. Since 1979 they were talking about a coal
07:29:56 10 slurry pipeline from Lake De Smet to Texas, and he had
07:30:01 11 come up there to cash in on the scheme.

07:30:06 12 Anyway, I didn't work for him for too long.
07:30:08 13 But about that 1980 or so, he moved out of there and
07:30:12 14 headed for Broadus and Ashland to try his luck there,
07:30:15 15 because way back then, already, there was a proposal for
07:30:19 16 the Tongue River Railroad. In fact, the ICC issued a
07:30:24 17 permit for the first Tongue River Railroad in 1984, from
07:30:28 18 Miles City to Ashland, just where we started in 2012, as
07:30:33 19 Mr. Blodgett said. The Montco Mine was permitted. Coal
07:30:39 20 was available. Railroad was permitted. Nothing
07:30:41 21 happened.

07:30:43 22 1996, Tongue River Railroad Company, back to
07:30:49 23 the Surface Transportation Board. Now they wanted to
07:30:53 24 continue the railroad all the way through to Decker.
07:30:56 25 The Surface Transportation Board then said yes, you can 30

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07:31:01 1 do that. 4-mile alternative. Now they have a railroad
07:31:05 2 permitted all the way from Decker to Miles City. But
07:31:10 3 they were given a three-year time limit, at that point,
07:31:13 4 to build the railroad. But the railroad came back to
07:31:18 5 the Surface Transportation Board in 1998 and said, We
07:31:22 6 don't like the alternative that we asked for. We'd like
07:31:26 7 to change the alternative. We'd like the western
07:31:30 8 alignment route. So you folks went ahead and permitted
07:31:35 9 the western alignment about 2002, if I remember
07:31:39 10 correctly. Coal for sale, railroad permitted, nothing
07:31:46 11 happens.

07:31:48 12 2012, they submit a new proposal. Back to the
07:31:53 13 drawing board from Ashland to Miles City. We come to
07:31:57 14 scoping comments. We comment. About a month after the
07:32:01 15 scoping process, Tongue River Railroad changes the
07:32:04 16 proposal. Now they want to go to Colstrip.

07:32:09 17 This is my experience with the railroad. My
07:32:12 18 family spent a lot of time, money, and effort. My
07:32:18 19 wife's been to Washington, D.C., to visit with you
07:32:22 20 folks.

07:32:24 21 This new alternative has ten -- or this new
07:32:27 22 proposal has ten different alternatives. But the fact
07:32:30 23 of the matter is this coal's been for sale since 1980 or
07:32:36 24 longer and no one wants it. And yet you people keep
07:32:41 25 putting us through this misery of coming to talk to you,³¹

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07:32:45 1 testifying, and everything else. It costs us a lot of
07:32:49 2 money. You've heard how the tribe spent a lot of money.
07:32:51 3 They don't have the resources to deal with this.
07:32:53 4 They've been dealing with it for 30 years, as have a lot
07:32:58 5 of the ranchers in this area.

07:32:59 6 I brought you guys a present tonight, because
07:33:01 7 I've heard that in Washington, D.C., you get things done
07:33:05 8 by wining and dining people. So I brought you guys some
07:33:08 9 Wagyu steaks that were raised here in the valley, and
07:33:12 10 I'd like to give them to you folks. But I can't raise
07:33:15 11 them without clean water and clean air and my neighbors.
07:33:20 12 I depend on people on the Tongue River Railroad for
07:33:22 13 feed, pellets, hay. We're a dryland ranch. We don't
07:33:28 14 have those opportunities. I depend on the Kinzels, here
07:33:31 15 in Lame Deer, to truck my calves to market. We're
07:33:35 16 having an auction, Northern Plains. We're donating a
07:33:39 17 half of this beef.

07:33:40 18 If you want to appease your conscience, maybe
07:33:44 19 you can get online and bid on it. We need money to stop
07:33:47 20 this project. And contact my buddy Collin here. That
07:33:52 21 auction will start in November.

07:33:54 22 But it's a tremendous burden for the people
07:33:56 23 here for you guys to keep doing this. There's still no
07:33:59 24 market for the coal. None of it's been sold. I'd like
07:34:03 25 to recommend a "No Build Ever" alternative if they don't₃₂

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07:34:07 1 get a market for this coal and the determination for
07:34:09 2 where it's going, because you cannot determine where the
07:34:12 3 railroad will go until someone buys the coal. And no
07:34:17 4 one wants to buy it.

07:34:19 5 Thank you.

07:34:29 6 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:34:30 7 comments.

07:34:33 8 Our next speaker is Alaina Buffalo Spirit.

07:34:51 9 ALAINA BUFFALO SPIRIT: Good evening. My name
07:34:52 10 is Alaina, A-l-a-i-n-a, Buffalo Spirit. Can you spell
07:34:59 11 Buffalo Spirit, two words?

07:35:01 12 First of all, I'm proud to say I'm a
07:35:05 13 grandmother and soon to be great-grandmother, which I'm
07:35:09 14 very happy about. I'm also a mother and a landowner.
07:35:18 15 I'm a cancer survivor. I'm greatly concerned about our
07:35:22 16 health, in regards to the pollution of the fine dust of
07:35:26 17 coal that comes off each train. I do not believe your
07:35:31 18 assessment that there will be minimal impacts. There
07:35:35 19 will be huge impacts to us, to the health of our nation,
07:35:38 20 our children, our elders.

07:35:44 21 In Bellingham, Washington, over 250 doctors
07:35:48 22 requested that a health impact statement should also be
07:35:52 23 done, along with the EIS, around the development of the
07:35:56 24 coal terminals along the northwest coast. They have
07:36:02 25 health concerns too.

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07:36:05 1 As a landowner along the Tongue River, near
07:36:09 2 Birney, Montana, I grew up there swimming in the river,
07:36:14 3 fishing for catfish along with my brothers and cousins.
07:36:20 4 I do not want noise pollution and floods of strangers
07:36:24 5 and total disregard of the safety of our children and
07:36:28 6 adults who swim, walk, and hunt along the river.

07:36:35 7 Respect our treaty rights. We have treaty
07:36:38 8 rights based on Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, and
07:36:43 9 in the highest court those have been upheld as the law
07:36:48 10 of the land. I do not want our ceremonies disturbed as
07:36:55 11 we pray and sing in our various lodges along the Tongue
07:37:00 12 River and other places in Cheyenne country.

07:37:06 13 I don't believe 120 days is enough. I feel
07:37:11 14 that it's more than -- we need more than, like, five
07:37:15 15 years or ten years. There is every little concern that
07:37:20 16 we have, and you have already heard it for the past four
07:37:24 17 days, including tonight. I say no to the Tongue River
07:37:28 18 Railroad. If you have a conscience, you will hear us.
07:37:33 19 You will hear our prayer for our children and the seven
07:37:37 20 generations ahead of us.

07:37:39 21 I speak as the grandmother. I do not speak on
07:37:42 22 behalf of the Northern Cheyenne tribe. I speak as a
07:37:46 23 grandmother and a concerned citizen.

07:37:49 24 Thank you.

07:37:57 25 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your

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07:37:57 1 comments.

07:37:57 2 Our next speaker is Wally McRae.

07:38:03 3 WALLACE McRAE: My name is Wallace McRae.

07:38:23 4 Last name is spelled M-c capital R-a-e.

07:38:32 5 I'd first of all like to express my
07:38:34 6 appreciation to the Northern Cheyenne tribe for once
07:38:39 7 again being so hospitable.

07:38:45 8 When I was in high school, our ranch leased
07:38:53 9 land at the head of Greenleaf, Mill Creek, Ryegrass,
07:38:58 10 Kelly Creek, Yellow Fox. We ran cattle up here in
07:39:02 11 common with Northern Cheyenne operators.

07:39:07 12 Our roundup cook was Jerry Kinzel. And his
07:39:13 13 wife Alice made me a pair of moccasins, tan buckskin,
07:39:24 14 rawhide soles. It had a Cheyenne emblem on it, and they
07:39:31 15 also had my brand. I wore those moccasins on stage one
07:39:38 16 time at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko,
07:39:42 17 Nevada, honoring her and you. I appreciate you people
07:39:55 18 being my neighbors.

07:40:05 19 It seems to me, in reading the document -- and
07:40:07 20 I think a lot of you people have not seen the documents
07:40:10 21 that were sent out, the Draft EIS. There are six
07:40:13 22 volumes. They stand, if you stack them up, over a foot
07:40:17 23 high. There's thousands and thousands and thousands of
07:40:22 24 words in them. I have been trying to get through them
07:40:26 25 and read to make comments. It's an impossibility,

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07:40:30 1 almost. Mostly because they say nothing, except they're
07:40:35 2 kind of an advertising brochure for the Otter Creek mine
07:40:39 3 and the Tongue River Railroad.

07:40:45 4 I talked to a county commissioner the other
07:40:47 5 day that came to one of the hearings, and came to the
07:40:50 6 hearing in Ashland, I guess it was. And afterwards we
07:40:57 7 talked about the railroad, about what has happened to
07:41:01 8 this entity, this corporate entity that's in our
07:41:04 9 community. And he told me -- we were talking about
07:41:07 10 crossings, the problems we are going to have as ranchers
07:41:11 11 with land on both sides and water lines going under.

07:41:14 12 And he said we have a water line that
07:41:16 13 irrigates the cemetery at Forsyth. It's a county
07:41:23 14 responsibility. We bring water from the Yellowstone
07:41:25 15 River through a culvert to irrigate the grass at the
07:41:34 16 cemetery, including the veterans' plot. The railroad
07:41:39 17 charges us, to put a pipe through their culvert to carry
07:41:43 18 the water, \$5,000 a year. That's the kind of people we
07:41:50 19 are dealing with.

07:41:54 20 The EIS also infers that in order for the
07:41:59 21 economic viability of the railroad, it would depend
07:42:02 22 eventually on three different mines: The Otter Creek.
07:42:07 23 Another one is the old Montco Mine site, as nearly as I
07:42:11 24 can figure out, that the permit, the state permit was
07:42:17 25 pulled for lack of diligence. And it's in the river

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07:42:21 1 bottom, it's in the alluvial valley. There's no way
07:42:25 2 they could keep the water out of it. It is not an
07:42:27 3 economically viable mine.

07:42:28 4 The other one is under Forrest Mars' ranch.
07:42:34 5 He has surface owner consent over federal coal. He
07:42:37 6 won't let the railroad cross his place. That's why he
07:42:42 7 bought into it, and he's damn sure not going to let that
07:42:47 8 mine go through. So if they build the railroad, they're
07:42:50 9 going to be stuck with one mine, the Otter Creek mine.

07:42:55 10 There's no reflection whatsoever of the
07:42:57 11 problems they would run into. There's no application
07:43:00 12 that's in force now to get more mines. The whole thing
07:43:04 13 is a fraud. And yet we all are asked to suffer from
07:43:14 14 that flood.

07:43:17 15 Thank you.

07:43:22 16 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:43:22 17 comments.

07:43:24 18 Our next speaker is Ken Sattler.

07:43:40 19 KENNETH SATTLER: Thank you. My name is
07:43:41 20 Kenneth Sattler, S-a-t-t-l-e-r.

07:43:45 21 I've lived here for 22 years on the Northern
07:43:47 22 Cheyenne reservation, and I'm very humbled to be
07:43:51 23 considered a community member and call this my home. I
07:43:53 24 have married my wife, who was living here, and I've
07:43:57 25 raised my son of 19 years on this reservation. I worked₃₇

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07:44:02 1 for Lame Deer school system for 21 years. I worked for
07:44:05 2 Lame Deer volunteer fire department for twelve years.
07:44:07 3 And I was a volunteer EMT for twelve years in this
07:44:10 4 community.

07:44:13 5 I'll try to make my comments direct for the
07:44:16 6 consideration in this final decision. As I read the
07:44:20 7 information, is the project proposal a need, my comment
07:44:25 8 would be why do we need to tap every last resource -- as
07:44:30 9 it says here -- chance to get the last remaining low
07:44:34 10 sulfur coal resource. Why do we have to tap all of our
07:44:38 11 last resources?

07:44:42 12 There was a special report done by Q2 News the
07:44:46 13 last couple weeks about the failing coal industry and
07:44:49 14 the downturn it has and that coal is at its lowest price
07:44:55 15 that it has been ever. Almost to single digits, single
07:44:58 16 dollar amounts per ton, down from its heyday of over
07:45:02 17 \$40, \$44 a ton. Is this really economically viable,
07:45:06 18 then, for the Tongue Railroad to build a railroad? Is
07:45:11 19 there going to be the economic resources there to do
07:45:17 20 that and make it profitable and not have to charge, as
07:45:21 21 we've heard, thousands of dollars just to run a pipe
07:45:23 22 through a culvert to water a cemetery? So in
07:45:30 23 consideration, we might want to ask Tongue River to
07:45:32 24 reconsider their proposal and look at that effect and
07:45:37 25 then possibly maybe even pull their proposal.

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07:45:40 1 Will the construction of this railroad benefit
07:45:42 2 this community? Who will build that railroad?
07:45:47 3 Employees of theirs? Employees of Burlington Northern
07:45:50 4 Santa Fe Railroad? How many Northern Cheyenne or local
07:45:53 5 people here work for them? How many will be hired to
07:45:56 6 build this railroad or will they use their crews and
07:45:59 7 come in here? How viable will be -- will that be to the
07:46:03 8 community? How many people are engineers for your
07:46:06 9 railroad from the Northern Cheyenne community or our
07:46:09 10 local community? How many of them will be employed by
07:46:12 11 this railroad?

07:46:16 12 There will be a ripple effect by bringing this
07:46:19 13 railroad in, which allows the way for the mine. We know
07:46:25 14 that's the whole purpose.

07:46:28 15 Is this mine going to be viable? Is this mine
07:46:30 16 going to go through? The Q2 report stated they're
07:46:34 17 reconsidering. They're willing to give up the large
07:46:39 18 amount of money they gave to the state school trust land
07:46:42 19 in exchange for that. They're willing, as this report
07:46:45 20 said, to give that up because of the downturn in coal.

07:46:53 21 When you look at the plans and the line of the
07:46:58 22 railroad, four of the alternatives of the plan parallels
07:47:02 23 four rivers. The entire extension parallels an entire
07:47:09 24 river length of our Tongue River.

07:47:12 25 You said the economic impact was minimal, but 39

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07:47:16 1 for 83 miles coal trains over a mile long, the coal
07:47:21 2 dust, the falloff, what kind of effect will that have on
07:47:26 3 the water, the fish that live in that water, the
07:47:31 4 enjoyment we get out of fishing the Tongue River? It
07:47:37 5 crosses water six times, another impact,
07:47:42 6 environmentally, I think is more than minimal.

07:47:47 7 It has five road crossings. What kind of
07:47:52 8 safety will be at road crossings? As a retired EMT,
07:47:55 9 I've seen the disaster of accidents at a rail crossing.
07:48:01 10 I do not want to see that in our community anywhere
07:48:05 11 along this rail line.

07:48:08 12 It borders a national forest. The National
07:48:12 13 Forest Service had no consideration or concern about a
07:48:16 14 coal train running along its national forest borders and
07:48:19 15 the effect it may have on the wildlife and the plants?

07:48:28 16 It borders the Northern Cheyenne reservation.
07:48:32 17 It runs through, from what I understand, to what was
07:48:36 18 once reservation land, land that the Northern Cheyenne
07:48:39 19 had that extended all the way to the Powder River but
07:48:43 20 was moved back as resources were found, as encroachment
07:48:47 21 went, and pushed back to the border of the Tongue River.

07:48:50 22 And I'm not an expert, and I ask those of you
07:48:53 23 here that if I speak out of place or out of turn or
07:48:56 24 inappropriate, forgive me, or if I speak of things I
07:49:00 25 shouldn't have. But my understanding is that I've heard₄₀

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07:49:04 1 from elders that have taken me in. I've been adopted by
07:49:08 2 Leroy Pine, Phil Whiteman, Donna Limberham [phonetic].
07:49:13 3 My son has been adopted, has been given a Cheyenne
07:49:16 4 Indian name. And I spent many years learning, watching,
07:49:20 5 and being part of the culture here.

07:49:22 6 This railroad appears to cross sacred land,
07:49:25 7 and I'm sure you have and will hear more comment about
07:49:29 8 that. That's not a minimal impact. There's a whole
07:49:32 9 federal act about Indian artifacts and relocation of
07:49:36 10 them. How much was that considered?

07:49:43 11 A minimal impact for a mile-long train on the
07:49:46 12 coal dust that comes up, how can that be considered
07:49:50 13 minimal when all it takes is one day of high wind to
07:49:55 14 create such a cloud dust that it chokes you? If you've
07:49:57 15 driven along Decker Road, you've experienced it on a
07:50:04 16 windy day how choking that ash is, how choking it is,
07:50:08 17 coming from the mine there, how choking it is from the
07:50:11 18 trains.

07:50:13 19 All it takes is one bad day to affect somebody
07:50:16 20 with a respiratory problem. We have a high rate of RSV
07:50:21 21 in our children. We have numbers with respiratory
07:50:24 22 problems, with asthma. All it takes is one windy day to
07:50:28 23 cause medical problems. That's not a minimal impact.

07:50:33 24 Within just a few miles of the railroad is the
07:50:36 25 Heritage Living Center, where many of our elders live. 41

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07:50:41 1 One windy day, what will it do and how will it affect
07:50:45 2 those elders at that Heritage Living Center? We know
07:50:49 3 that we don't have a predominant wind out of the west.
07:50:54 4 We know we get many winds coming from the east that will
07:50:58 5 blow that ash into Ashland, into the Heritage Living
07:51:02 6 Center, onto our reservation, and settle that dust in
07:51:06 7 our homes, in our water -- as we heard -- into our
07:51:11 8 grasses, into our feed. I ask all these things to be
07:51:17 9 considered when this final decision is being made.

07:51:22 10 You're proposing to run the river -- run the
07:51:25 11 rail along the Tongue River. Well, at Birney, up until
07:51:29 12 yesterday, there had been a flood warning and had been
07:51:33 13 over its banks for quite a while. And this happens on a
07:51:36 14 regular basis. How viable and how safe is that with a
07:51:40 15 the railroad that will run across and parallel to that
07:51:43 16 river?

07:51:45 17 So I hope my comments can be considered and
07:51:48 18 the comments of everybody here, and that the final
07:51:50 19 decision of this proposal is that no action be taken,
07:51:55 20 the proposal that permits not be granted for any
07:52:00 21 railroad or its alternatives that have been proposed
07:52:02 22 here.

07:52:03 23 Thank you.

07:52:15 24 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Our next speaker is Seidel
07:52:17 25 Standing Elk.

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07:52:28 1 SEIDEL STANDING ELK: Hi. My name's Seidel
07:52:29 2 Standing Elk, and I just want to share some information
07:52:35 3 about what my father told me about Otter Creek one time.

07:52:39 4 He said our people used to camp alongside that
07:52:43 5 creek there, and he said there was wildlife there, and
07:52:48 6 he said that was one of the places they'd stop. And he
07:52:51 7 said maybe not very many people know this, he said, but
07:52:55 8 there's a battle that happened there, you know, a long
07:52:58 9 time ago, and things like that. He said it was one of
07:53:01 10 their places where they used to come and stop.

07:53:04 11 And he said there's a lot of sacredness there,
07:53:09 12 he said, because when they came into camp, it was all
07:53:11 13 done orally. Everybody knew their responsibilities when
07:53:14 14 they came to that. And he said the medicine people go
07:53:18 15 off on their own. He said they knew what to do. He
07:53:22 16 said because they knew what was there and what kind of
07:53:26 17 plants to pick and things like that way. So I just
07:53:30 18 wanted to share that information, share that story that
07:53:34 19 he told me at one time.

07:53:36 20 And someone once told me, he said, What do you
07:53:42 21 think about what part of the land is sacred to you,
07:53:45 22 instead of certain places that it's sacred. And I
07:53:49 23 thought about it for a while and I thought, well, I
07:53:53 24 think all land is sacred. I think this, you know, the
07:53:59 25 one earth we live on. So I told him, I said, I think

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07:54:02 1 all land is sacred. I don't think there's only certain
07:54:07 2 places where there is more sacredness or less
07:54:10 3 sacredness. I told him I think it's all sacred.

07:54:12 4 So I just wanted to share that and, like my
07:54:15 5 brothers and sisters here said before me, I think we
07:54:18 6 need a lot more time to think this through. We need to
07:54:23 7 have somebody sit with us and just explain this --
07:54:28 8 explain some of this language that's here very basically
07:54:33 9 to us, so that we can understand it and hopefully we can
07:54:38 10 come to some good decisions from that and agree upon
07:54:46 11 this reservation.

07:54:46 12 And I know the Tongue River well. I fish
07:54:49 13 there, camp there, canoed there. I know a lot of places
07:54:52 14 there. So -- and in the Otter Creek too. So I just
07:54:55 15 wanted to share that much information with you guys
07:54:57 16 here.

07:54:58 17 Thank you.

07:55:00 18 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
07:55:00 19 comments.

07:55:07 20 Our next speaker is Avalee Little Whirlwind --
07:55:10 21 Avalee Little Whirlwind.

07:55:32 22 Okay. Our next speaker is Jeanie Alderson.

07:55:48 23 JEANIE ALDERSON: Hi, everybody. My name's
07:55:54 24 Jeanie Alderson, A-l-d-e-r-s-o-n.

07:56:00 25 My family has a ranch on Hanging Woman Creek, 44

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07:56:05 1 in the Tongue River Valley, Bones Brothers Ranch. My
07:56:08 2 husband and I also have a grass-finished beef business.
07:56:14 3 Thank you for coming. Thank you for the opportunity to
07:56:16 4 speak. And again, thanks to the Northern Cheyenne
07:56:19 5 nation and people for hosting this hearing.

07:56:24 6 The idea that a railroad should get a permit
07:56:26 7 to be built in hopes that a purpose, a market will
07:56:30 8 manifest is wrong. There is no need for the Tongue
07:56:34 9 River Railroad. This is a scam and you are allowing it
07:56:37 10 to go on.

07:56:38 11 The only thing in the Draft EIS that makes
07:56:41 12 sense is the "No Build" alternative. Why are we here?
07:56:46 13 How do you study the impacts of something so vague and
07:56:49 14 so unplanned and so speculative as the Tongue River
07:56:51 15 Railroad? Why hasn't the STB demanded that the Tongue
07:56:57 16 River Railroad show you its plan? Not ten different
07:56:59 17 plans with ten different purposes.

07:57:01 18 As I look at the EIS, I kept seeing more and
07:57:04 19 more speculation. You had to create a computer model to
07:57:09 20 determine the destination of this railroad, because the
07:57:14 21 Tongue River Railroad Company hasn't provided you with a
07:57:16 22 plan or a market or where they're going.

07:57:18 23 Looking at pages of charts and maps and
07:57:21 24 descriptions, I feel -- I see very little that looks at
07:57:24 25 what is real. The Tongue River Railroad and this EIS

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07:57:32 1 are all about speculation. Ten different routes, a
07:57:36 2 proposed mine in Otter Creek that has an application
07:57:39 3 with pages and pages of deficiencies, no permit, no
07:57:42 4 market, owned by an almost bankrupt company. And then
07:57:45 5 you mention all these other induced mining areas. None
07:57:49 6 of these plans are real.

07:57:51 7 However, the Tongue River Railroad -- however,
07:57:54 8 if the Tongue River Railroad is permitted, the
07:57:55 9 unnecessary damage to what now exists is unavailable.
07:58:00 10 Your task is not to protect and enhance a scheme; it is
07:58:04 11 to protect and enhance what is real.

07:58:07 12 What is real? What is real are those things
07:58:10 13 that once they're ruined we don't get back. Not just to
07:58:14 14 those of us who live here, but this state and really the
07:58:18 15 planet. As ranchers, we have built our lives around
07:58:22 16 grass and water and animals. These are real. In this
07:58:28 17 valley we produce food. This is not just a scheme
07:58:32 18 created by a computer model. What we produce is real.

07:58:38 19 The world and the farms and ranches that
07:58:41 20 produce hay in the valley and feed, those are real. The
07:58:45 21 world needs healthy and intact grasslands and we need
07:58:49 22 every inch of remaining topsoil. This isn't just for
07:58:53 23 us. This is for the planet. You can't run a railroad
07:58:58 24 through ranches and farms without ruining them.

07:59:04 25 The peoples and cultures of this valley and

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07:59:06 1 the wisdom that they hold are real. The Northern
07:59:11 2 Cheyenne have ancient and vital knowledge about how to
07:59:15 3 live and survive and even thrive in this place, and
07:59:21 4 nobody knows more about how to survive than these
07:59:23 5 people. I hope we don't have to wait too long before
07:59:28 6 all of us understand that we all need what they know.

07:59:33 7 And the Amish, again, a people who know how to
07:59:36 8 live in community with very little. I mean, it's more
07:59:41 9 than just bad irony that a coal-hauling railroad would
07:59:44 10 bisect their community.

07:59:46 11 We are diverse in this area and much of our
07:59:50 12 history together is difficult, to say the least. But we
07:59:55 13 share this place, and the other thing we share is that
08:00:00 14 many folks from the outside see us as obsolete and
08:00:06 15 unimportant. But we're not.

08:00:10 16 So in conclusion, this is not just about
08:00:13 17 preserving some kind of picturesque, quaint, by-gone
08:00:16 18 cultures. This is about our future and it's about our
08:00:20 19 children. It's about our ability to produce food. You
08:00:23 20 know, we also, as ranchers and farmers, we produce
08:00:26 21 energy too. Food is energy. Preserving the cultures
08:00:31 22 with the knowledge and wisdom of how to live in a world
08:00:34 23 where resources are precious, this is what this is
08:00:37 24 about.

08:00:38 25 As a nation, we need to make smart decisions

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08:00:40 1 now. We can't make decisions that involve destroying
08:00:43 2 land and water and cultures. And not just the future
08:00:47 3 of -- not just for the future of those of us who are
08:00:51 4 blessed enough to call this part of the world our home,
08:00:53 5 but for all of us in this nation and for future
08:00:56 6 generations. As a permitting agency, your task is to
08:01:00 7 make sure that this project in no way compromises our
08:01:02 8 lives and our futures. The only alternative is the "No
08:01:06 9 Build" alternative.

08:01:07 10 Thank you.

08:01:14 11 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Our next speaker is Mike
08:01:20 12 Bearcomesout.

08:01:34 13 MIKE BEARCOMESOUT: My name is Mike
08:01:35 14 Bearcomesout. I'm from Muddy Creek, and I heard about
08:01:39 15 this meeting here today on Facebook, and they said they
08:01:45 16 would have free food, so that's why I was here.

08:01:50 17 I came here with my wife. And after we got
08:01:53 18 done eating, she said, I'm going to Bingo; you go in
08:01:56 19 there and testify. So that's why I'm here.

08:02:00 20 Anyway, we've been faced with this issue of
08:02:05 21 coal development, railroad development for many, many
08:02:09 22 years. And we have always opposed it, the Cheyenne
08:02:15 23 people. Our grandparents, they opposed it. They're all
08:02:19 24 gone now. So we're the only ones left. Our age group,
08:02:25 25 we still speak Cheyenne. This is our home. Our tribe

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08:02:35 1 is known as the Morning Star people, but I and my
08:02:42 2 relatives were from the Little Wolf band of Cheyennes.
08:02:48 3 We came from Oklahoma and we made it all the way to
08:02:53 4 Miles City, Montana. And those are my people. They
08:03:01 5 fought for this land and they came back here so that we
08:03:04 6 could live here, so that we could have a home.

08:03:10 7 Other tribes, they have initiations for their
08:03:16 8 young warriors to become -- or their young men to become
08:03:20 9 warriors. We don't have that. Whenever a young person,
08:03:26 10 a young man, when he smokes a pipe or uses tobacco to
08:03:32 11 pray, he becomes a warrior, he gives his life to
08:03:43 12 protecting the Cheyenne people. That's how we -- that's
08:03:51 13 how we perpetuate our warriors.

08:03:55 14 And us, from the Little Wolf band, when we say
08:03:58 15 "our land," we're not talking just about the Northern
08:04:03 16 Cheyenne reservation. We're talking about the whole
08:04:08 17 state of Montana. We're talking about the whole
08:04:11 18 United States. And it's our job, our responsibility, to
08:04:19 19 protect this land so that our grandchildren can benefit
08:04:25 20 from this land, they can be -- they can live here many,
08:04:33 21 many, many generations to come. That's what -- that's
08:04:37 22 what we believe in. That's how we pray.

08:04:42 23 I prayed for food out there this evening, and
08:04:46 24 that's what I prayed for. All those things that I
08:04:49 25 prayed for, the land, the animals, the air, the water, 49

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08:05:00 1 that prayer that I said, you know, that's my comment
08:05:05 2 tonight.

08:05:06 3 You know, we talk about the alternatives, and
08:05:11 4 I'm here to support the "No-Action" alternative, but I
08:05:16 5 think there should be another alternative. That
08:05:21 6 alternative should be solar power. You know, we're
08:05:25 7 going to sell all this coal to Asia because they don't
08:05:32 8 have the environmental protections there. They can --
08:05:38 9 Corporate America can go there, rip off those people,
08:05:41 10 pollute the ground, and do all kinds of environmental
08:05:45 11 damage, and they won't have to pay. And all that
08:05:51 12 pollution from Asia is going to come over here to our
08:05:55 13 land.

08:05:59 14 I think that's why, you know, our people
08:06:02 15 support this "No-Action" alternative. There are other
08:06:07 16 solutions. You know, right now the way I see this
08:06:15 17 project, the Tongue River Railroad and the Otter Creek
08:06:19 18 Coal mine, we're just subsidizing a dying technology.
08:06:27 19 Natural gas is way cheaper than coal right now. We can
08:06:40 20 generate electricity with natural gas cheaper. It's
08:06:47 21 cleaner. And that's what the people of this country
08:06:51 22 want. We want to protect our land. We want it to be
08:06:59 23 healthy for our children. We want clean air.

08:07:06 24 And all of the other things, you know, like
08:07:08 25 they always say, who's going to speak for the trees and 50

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08:07:11 1 animals and fish, all the insects, the grass. They all
08:07:18 2 live here with us. Who's going to talk for them?

08:07:22 3 So I just want to say that, you know, we don't
08:07:33 4 like to speak angry at anybody, you know, but I think,
08:07:41 5 you know, today, what you guys are trying to do here --
08:07:45 6 messing with our land, endangering our people, you
08:07:51 7 know -- we don't appreciate it. So I would recommend
08:07:58 8 the "No-Action" alternative from me and my people.

08:08:03 9 You know, I'm not a ceremonial man, I'm not a
08:08:06 10 chief, I'm not a councilman. I'm just a warrior of this
08:08:10 11 tribe. I'm going to say that much.

08:08:13 12 Thank you very much.

08:08:21 13 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Our next speaker is Tiri
08:08:23 14 Brien. Is Tiri Brien in the room?

08:09:03 15 Okay. Our next speaker is Elizabeth Braided
08:09:06 16 Hair.

08:09:08 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you wait a minute?
08:09:08 18 She's outside.

08:09:30 19 ELIZABETH BRAIDED HAIR: Elizabeth.

08:09:31 20 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Are you Elizabeth Braided
08:09:31 21 Hair?

08:09:34 22 ELIZABETH BRAIDED HAIR: (Speaking in native
08:09:34 23 language.)

08:09:36 24 My name is Elizabeth Braided Hair. This is
08:09:44 25 very emotional.

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08:09:45 1 I didn't read the 4,000-page report and I
08:09:49 2 don't think I will, because my answer is no, I don't
08:09:55 3 want any of it. I don't want coal mining. I don't want
08:10:04 4 any meth -- methane development, and I don't want the
08:10:09 5 railroad. I'm a grandmother. I'm a mother. I'm
08:10:16 6 Northern Cheyenne. I was born here in Lame Deer.

08:10:22 7 My grandfathers fought this, my grandfather,
08:10:25 8 Alex Brady. There's a lot of my -- I think this is,
08:10:31 9 what, the third generation where, you know, we're going
08:10:35 10 against coal. We don't want this development. It's
08:10:38 11 not -- it's going to hurt us. There's no good in it.

08:10:44 12 Before, they would give our people alcohol and
08:10:53 13 people were -- our people were weakened to that and they
08:10:57 14 would withhold food and whatnot from them. Today
08:11:01 15 there's a lot of us that are sober and we make good,
08:11:04 16 sound decisions. I'm 25 years drug- and alcohol-free,
08:11:08 17 as of last week, and I got a good mind. I have a good
08:11:13 18 heart. I love my people and, you know, I don't want
08:11:18 19 that for my children and my grandchildren.

08:11:20 20 On the way down we were talking about this. I
08:11:24 21 have two children that come from foster care that I'm
08:11:30 22 raising, going to raise, and I'm 56 years old, so I know
08:11:37 23 what I'm saying, know what I'm doing. I don't want
08:11:39 24 this. And I'm not going to repeat what everybody says.

08:11:44 25 You know, there's a lot of good words here.

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08:11:46 1 You know, people come up here very angry, and I felt
08:11:50 2 that way too. I feel really angry sometimes. I don't
08:11:54 3 want this, and I feel like it's being shoved down our
08:11:58 4 throat once again. I feel like back in the old days,
08:12:01 5 when they used to hold the rations -- withhold rations
08:12:04 6 from our old people, and I feel like that all over
08:12:08 7 again, you know, still going through that generational
08:12:11 8 trauma. There's no way that I'll ever agree with this.

08:12:21 9 I thank you guys for coming to listen to us
08:12:23 10 and I hope you guys, you know, put that in your reports,
08:12:25 11 all that's being said here, that's all being shared. A
08:12:28 12 lot of us aren't public speakers. We don't -- we're
08:12:34 13 just not that way and -- but our hearts are strong and,
08:12:41 14 you know, a lot of people don't want this.

08:12:45 15 So my -- I was telling you I was talking to my
08:12:48 16 grandchildren on the way down. We were talking about
08:12:50 17 this, and so I'm, like, the third generation. So there
08:12:57 18 are -- my children and the kids, they don't want it
08:13:00 19 either.

08:13:01 20 That's all I got to say. I'll never read that
08:13:06 21 report, not 4,000 pages. I kind of -- I get angry
08:13:11 22 having to -- when I think about that, you know. There's
08:13:18 23 a lot of things that were going through my mind and I
08:13:21 24 wanted to come up and get really angry. I have before.
08:13:26 25 I'm not going to do that no more. I'm just going to

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08:13:28 1 keep praying, you know, that this doesn't happen. And
08:13:31 2 prayers are strong. That's all I got to say.

08:13:38 3 You got a gift there and that was really nice
08:13:41 4 of that man to do that, but I'm going to give you a
08:13:45 5 gift. This is my T-shirt.

08:14:11 6 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you and thank you for
08:14:13 7 your comments.

08:14:15 8 Our next speaker, I apologize, I cannot read
08:14:18 9 the last name. I believe the first name is Waylon.
08:14:23 10 Sorry.

08:14:26 11 WAYLON ROGERS: Waylon Rogers, W-a-y-l-o-n,
08:14:31 12 R-o-g-e-r-s.

08:14:34 13 I'll start off with a story that my
08:14:38 14 grandmother told me and my mother. It's a pretty kind
08:14:46 15 of funny story. I remember growing up and I would
08:14:52 16 travel to, like, Horton or Miles City or anywhere other
08:14:57 17 than here that had railroads.

08:15:02 18 And a long time ago there was two Indians, two
08:15:08 19 Cheyenne men. They just came from a camp in Rapid City.
08:15:17 20 And somewhere along there they found a railroad and they
08:15:20 21 started to follow it. And on that railroad like a few
08:15:27 22 days before that, I guess, there was -- later on they
08:15:31 23 found out there was a circus there, a circus drove
08:15:34 24 through there -- I think some people might know this
08:15:38 25 story. But there was a monkey that died.

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08:15:45 1 And so what they did, the people that owned
08:15:49 2 that monkey in the circus train, they threw it out,
08:15:54 3 right on the tracks. And those two guys that were
08:15:56 4 walking found the monkey, and they didn't know what to
08:16:01 5 think of it. They'd never seen anything like that
08:16:02 6 before ever. And so they kind of got scared. So they
08:16:08 7 brought it back to the camp and talked to the chiefs.

08:16:13 8 And they talked about that, the chiefs talked.
08:16:20 9 And they came up with a conclusion. One of them came up
08:16:25 10 and said, (speaking in native language), which means
08:16:30 11 crazy, he goes, White people are crazy. They had sex
08:16:37 12 with a monkey -- or they had sex with a wolf and that's
08:16:40 13 their baby. So ever since then we always thought of
08:16:44 14 white people as, you know, not natural, here.

08:16:52 15 And, you know, I think we shouldn't have this
08:16:58 16 railroad. The alternative should be, you know, no. If
08:17:04 17 not, you know, we need that 120-day extension.

08:17:09 18 Right along those maps you'll see the Otter
08:17:11 19 Creek Railroad and then you get into the town of
08:17:15 20 Ashland, you go past the town of Ashland, there's
08:17:19 21 St. Labre, and less than a mile from there, I live right
08:17:24 22 there, that's my house. I will be the first person
08:17:28 23 impacted by this railroad. I have asthma, my daughter
08:17:33 24 has asthma, and thank God my son doesn't have asthma.
08:17:38 25 And if that coal dust comes, I've been in a coal dust

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08:17:43 1 cloud and I just about died. I mean, not literally
08:17:47 2 died. I coughed my lungs out. It's pretty bad.

08:17:52 3 My mom, she's getting up there in age. She's
08:17:58 4 the -- one of the very last full blood So'taa'eo'o. I'm
08:18:03 5 also So'taa'eo'o. My name's Mishconveyenes [phonetic],
08:18:06 6 which means Head Chief.

08:18:10 7 You know, I look at all these alternatives and
08:18:13 8 I do have some engineering backgrounds, and if someone
08:18:19 9 came up to me with this report and said build this, you
08:18:26 10 can do anything you want, I wouldn't know what to do. I
08:18:30 11 mean, there's so many things wrong with all these -- a
08:18:34 12 lot of these sites, I can walk and show you our sacred
08:18:38 13 sites on every one of these.

08:18:41 14 You know, I grew up mainly in Birney and
08:18:46 15 Ashland, always less than 100 feet from the river. I
08:18:51 16 mean, that's -- I would get affected. My kids would get
08:18:54 17 affected. We just planted 40 apples -- apple trees,
08:19:01 18 buffalo berry trees, bushes. You know, I want to
08:19:08 19 protect what I have for my kids and their kids.

08:19:14 20 You know, this is not really viable. Who's
08:19:18 21 going to buy that coal? I'm sure you can find somebody,
08:19:22 22 but, you know, do they need all that coal? No. They
08:19:26 23 don't. They -- if they're going to, you know, be buying
08:19:31 24 coal, they should get it somewhere else. It's just that
08:19:34 25 the impact is going to be so outrageous.

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08:19:37 1 I mean, like, if you go towards Miles City,
08:19:41 2 there's some cuts that you guys are going to have to
08:19:43 3 make and I'm not sure how you guys are going to do it
08:19:46 4 without some pilings. And those pilings, as everybody
08:19:49 5 knows, that they go down to the earth, who knows what
08:19:53 6 those watersheds -- what it's going to do to the
08:19:56 7 watersheds?

08:19:57 8 You guys are going to have to go up on cuts
08:19:59 9 along the river. You know, there's going to be
08:20:02 10 couple-million-pound trains going through there, and
08:20:05 11 then what if it floods? You have to think about
08:20:07 12 liquefaction. Liquefaction is the -- when you shake the
08:20:11 13 ground in a sandy soil, everything sinks.

08:20:14 14 You know, my house is about 50 feet above the
08:20:16 15 river, and when that liquefaction starts going on, my
08:20:21 16 house is going to slide. It's just basic engineering.
08:20:27 17 I'm not an expert, but I know that -- I know that's
08:20:30 18 going to happen. I'm going to say it right now.

08:20:34 19 You know, I've seen the report and it's about,
08:20:41 20 you know -- everybody says it's about that big. I
08:20:44 21 actually went to school for aviation. I have an
08:20:48 22 avionics, power plant, and airframe, all those books
08:20:54 23 that I've learned are only about that thick. All the
08:20:57 24 federal aviation regulations. And every one of those
08:21:01 25 regulations means something. Those regulations were

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08:21:06 1 made in blood. Somebody had to die to make a new
08:21:10 2 regulation.

08:21:12 3 You know, over here, as that gentleman told
08:21:17 4 everybody, everything in that report is all gibberish,
08:21:22 5 and I'm not going to waste my time reading something
08:21:26 6 like that. So I have to say no on this railroad. If
08:21:34 7 you can't do that, at least give us the 100 and whatever
08:21:38 8 days we need to do that, because I know there's so many
08:21:40 9 sacred sites out there that they're just going to
08:21:44 10 decimate.

08:21:46 11 You know, if they want us to, you know, come
08:21:56 12 into the 20th century, but I say no. You know, we need
08:22:03 13 to be like how our ancestors were. They died for the
08:22:09 14 land we're standing on right now. And I'm not going to
08:22:13 15 be going to say yes to something like this. You know,
08:22:19 16 where is the alternative, where it goes through Mars'
08:22:22 17 front yard? There's none. He doesn't want it. He
08:22:26 18 wants us to suffer for a dying market. That's all I got
08:22:31 19 to say.

08:22:32 20 Thank you.

08:22:38 21 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:22:39 22 comments.

08:22:40 23 Our next speaker is Meredith Tallbull.

08:23:04 24 MEREDITH TALLBULL: Hello. Lost on Google
08:23:05 25 Earth over there. Trying to find out where that map

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08:23:08 1 was.

08:23:09 2 Hello. My name is Meredith Tallbull. Just
08:23:11 3 going to keep this brief. And I know I work for the
08:23:13 4 Northern Cheyenne Development Committee -- oh, yeah,
08:23:15 5 M-e-r-e-d-i-t-h, Tallbull, T-a-l-l-b-u-l-l.

08:23:21 6 I work for NCDC, and my job there is to
08:23:24 7 provide economic employment for the community. And I
08:23:28 8 understand that there's two scenarios that are at work
08:23:31 9 here. One of them, if it's a green light for Otter
08:23:33 10 Creek to go, and one of them is a red light for it to
08:23:37 11 discontinue.

08:23:38 12 So my statement here is just pretty much
08:23:41 13 directed to our community leaders and our leaders in
08:23:44 14 general, not so much as Otter Creek, even though you
08:23:47 15 guys have lived around here, such a beautiful place, and
08:23:51 16 saying that is -- what is our next step after this, you
08:23:57 17 know, what is our community going to do to provide
08:23:59 18 opportunities.

08:24:01 19 Because if you guys haven't been aware of the
08:24:03 20 Bakkens, the man camps that are there and, you know, all
08:24:08 21 the turmoil that the indigenous population went through
08:24:12 22 there, and what are we going to do to prepare ourselves?
08:24:16 23 What are we doing?

08:24:17 24 And so that's just a statement I wanted to
08:24:19 25 make and I hope you guys take that into consideration.

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08:24:23 1 All right. Thank you.

08:24:26 2 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:24:26 3 comments.

08:24:29 4 Next speaker is Doris Medicine Bull.

08:24:54 5 DORIS MEDICINE BULL: Good evening. My name
08:24:56 6 is Doris Medicine Bull, D-o-r-i-s, Medicine, capital
08:25:01 7 B-u-l-l.

08:25:03 8 I come to you tonight totally against the
08:25:08 9 Tongue River Railroad or any coal development across the
08:25:12 10 river from where I live. I was active with native
08:25:21 11 action back in -- I can't remember what year. My son
08:25:24 12 was eight. And we testified at a hearing against Tongue
08:25:29 13 River Railroad or any coal mining. My son is now 20 and
08:25:37 14 we're still fighting this Tongue River Railroad.

08:25:40 15 It's not needed. It's not necessary. The
08:25:43 16 coal mining isn't necessary. Look at Colstrip. They
08:25:47 17 have no vegetation, no trees, if there are any trees.
08:25:56 18 And I don't know what their water's like, but I wouldn't
08:25:59 19 want to know. I'm sure it's got to be purified because
08:26:02 20 of all the coal mining in that area.

08:26:04 21 And I come from a traditional home. We
08:26:08 22 practice our cultural ways and it's been that ever since
08:26:15 23 I was born. I'd love to tell you my age but I can't, or
08:26:18 24 I don't want to. No. But I lived in Birney, you know,
08:26:22 25 all my life, and I really like the countryside out

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08:26:25 1 there. All of the vegetation, all the wildlife,
08:26:30 2 everybody can still hunt deer here. So even getting
08:26:36 3 other animals that don't even live in this area.

08:26:40 4 You know, you got to consider this is our
08:26:43 5 life. This is our country. We fought for where we are
08:26:49 6 today. We're not going to just give up because somebody
08:26:52 7 wants to make a quick buck. The Koch brothers, they
08:26:57 8 don't live here, they don't know what we're going to go
08:27:00 9 through. And our workforce, I doubt if we have anybody
08:27:04 10 trained to be an engineer or, you know, whatever all
08:27:10 11 comes with a railroad. I can't, you know, specify.
08:27:12 12 But, you know, we don't have people ready to go to work
08:27:15 13 for this company, I mean, these great big companies that
08:27:18 14 just want to come in and destroy the land.

08:27:21 15 You got to think about the water, the giver of
08:27:24 16 life, or is Tongue River Railroad or any coal company
08:27:30 17 going to supply us with good water to survive on? I
08:27:35 18 don't think so. And we don't have the monies to be able
08:27:41 19 to help our people that would need water. You ever
08:27:45 20 think about that? You guys live with fluoridated water,
08:27:51 21 yeah, we're all happy with that, because it builds up
08:27:54 22 our calcium, but here we'll have other chemicals in the
08:27:58 23 water.

08:27:59 24 I already see it, because coalbed methane was,
08:28:04 25 you know, going full blast in Wyoming, and it's now

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08:28:09 1 salinity. You know, that salt was not good for
08:28:14 2 anything, for the farmer -- or farm and ranchers up
08:28:19 3 toward Sheridan. They suffered.

08:28:23 4 And I used to live in Ashland in a house by
08:28:30 5 Tongue River. My nephew went out there one day, tried
08:28:33 6 to fish all day. He got a fish this big. That hurt,
08:28:43 7 because my nephew was out there trying to get a fish.
08:28:48 8 You know, do you guys even consider what a Cheyenne
08:28:55 9 people will have to go through or the ranchers in the
08:28:59 10 nearby area? This is a life, our life way. You guys
08:29:04 11 really need to put that into consideration.

08:29:07 12 And the coal that's going to be mined across
08:29:10 13 the river is only so deep. It's not like what we have
08:29:15 14 here. Our seams are way underground. Theirs is just
08:29:20 15 not too far below the surface. Is that even worth
08:29:28 16 digging up all the land so that somebody can make a fast
08:29:31 17 buck? What are they going to do with the money? Where
08:29:34 18 is it going to take them? It's all about money. As
08:29:40 19 poor as we are, we don't want coal mining.

08:29:44 20 Look at Colstrip. Go over there and check it
08:29:48 21 out. It's not a pretty sight. And we have the Clean
08:29:55 22 Air Act, our water quality. It's supposed to be up
08:29:59 23 there. The state doesn't even go up further and say you
08:30:04 24 guys should do something about your pollution. Find
08:30:07 25 other ways to get rid of it rather than it come

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08:30:10 1 downstream.

08:30:13 2 I live in Birney. I love the peace and quiet,
08:30:18 3 and we see eagles flying all over all the time. Hawks.
08:30:23 4 We see red foxes running around. Have you seen some
08:30:30 5 wildlife run through your backyard? No, probably
08:30:35 6 because you live in the city. Consider our way of life.

08:30:40 7 My son is 20. Today I just talked to him. He
08:30:44 8 said, Mom, he said, I remember when I testified. He
08:30:56 9 said, I was just online today. There's a lot of
08:31:01 10 Canadian companies against this because it's just going
08:31:06 11 to be exported. Why don't we benefit from this? Why is
08:31:11 12 it going to go overseas, outsourced? How is it going to
08:31:19 13 benefit us as a people? Can you answer that for me?

08:31:27 14 And I hope you read everybody's comments,
08:31:29 15 because they are worth reading. We're not just here to
08:31:34 16 babble and take your time. My name -- my Cheyenne name
08:31:40 17 is (speaking in native language), Sacred Camping Woman.
08:31:46 18 And I like my lifestyle. We practice our ways. We have
08:31:50 19 a culture. We rely on water. We rely on air. We rely
08:31:55 20 on wood. We rely on the rocks. Consider that. It's
08:32:05 21 not just a little thing. It's humungous.

08:32:09 22 There's going to be social problems. Drug and
08:32:15 23 alcohol will increase. Look at the Bakken area. It's
08:32:19 24 not a pretty sight. You know, you got to consider all
08:32:28 25 this. All this development is going on around us and we

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08:32:30 1 still don't want it. It's not any good for anyone. And
08:32:33 2 our children and their children need a home, and our
08:32:39 3 reservation is very small.

08:32:41 4 So please consider not allowing this railroad.
08:32:48 5 I worked with Native Action and we fought Tongue River
08:32:51 6 Railroad, Otter Creek. We fought it. I was there. And
08:32:59 7 I'm still here and I will always be against big
08:33:04 8 development that don't benefit anyone in the area.
08:33:10 9 We're all here to support one another, ranchers, local
08:33:14 10 people. You guys won't even consider it. I seriously
08:33:24 11 ask you: Do not allow this railroad. There are other
08:33:29 12 alternatives to whatever they want. They can go
08:33:33 13 elsewhere.

08:33:34 14 Thank you.

08:33:41 15 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:33:42 16 comments.

08:33:42 17 Our next speaker is Susan Little Wolf. Is
08:33:54 18 Susan Little Wolf in the room?

08:33:56 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

08:33:57 20 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: No. Thank you.

08:33:59 21 Our next speaker is Monte Medicine.

08:34:25 22 MONTE MEDICINE: My name is Monte Medicine,
08:34:28 23 M-o-n-t-e, M-e-d-i-c-i-n-e.

08:34:37 24 I'm here to speak. Just on top, I'd like to
08:34:46 25 say I am against the coal mine. And with that, there is ⁶⁴

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08:34:53 1 Otter Creek Coal Mine, they're going to make a mine
08:35:00 2 right at the corner of what used to be part of the
08:35:05 3 Cheyenne reservation. That's what I want to talk about
08:35:09 4 here.

08:35:11 5 This land from where they're going to have the
08:35:15 6 coal mine all the way up to Fort Hall and round the edge
08:35:21 7 of the white Birney is supposed to be part of the
08:35:26 8 Cheyenne reservation, and that's a concern I have. We
08:35:36 9 have to say something about this. We did when they
08:35:42 10 tried to have a Peabody coal mine to come, coal mine
08:35:47 11 here on the reservation, and we stopped it.

08:35:51 12 And now they want assistance from us on the
08:35:57 13 Otter Creek, but a lot of Cheyenne people don't know
08:36:03 14 that Otter Creek mine is considered -- that's supposed
08:36:10 15 to be part of the Cheyenne reservation. I told the
08:36:19 16 tribal president here about that. He told me we had --
08:36:29 17 the people were the owners of the land. Well, actually,
08:36:32 18 we don't have to show the ownership of the land, because
08:36:37 19 the government and the state robbed this land, which is
08:36:43 20 the U.S. forest, Custer National Forest, that used to be
08:36:53 21 part of the Cheyenne reservation.

08:36:55 22 And a lot of the Birney people know that the
08:37:00 23 land across their river is Cheyenne land from Otter
08:37:07 24 Creek all the way up to Fort Hall and back down into
08:37:13 25 white Birney, and that's supposed to be Cheyenne

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08:37:17 1 reservation.

08:37:18 2 And yeah, I'm against this mining of coal and
08:37:25 3 I'm glad these ranchers came to us to stop this coal
08:37:30 4 mine. They say when Peabody was the big coal mine here
08:37:39 5 on the reservation, they said -- they already had
08:37:45 6 everything in paint, everything marked off where they
08:37:48 7 were going to make a coal mine.

08:37:52 8 Well, that's what they say about the Otter
08:37:54 9 Creek coal mine and, from what I see, they're fine with
08:38:04 10 that railroad. If we stopped the railroad, we can stop
08:38:11 11 this coal mine. And I thought about this coal mine.
08:38:20 12 Stop the -- I guess -- operation of taking the coal.

08:38:37 13 And that's all I can say on this coal mine,
08:38:41 14 Otter Creek coal mine, because it is part of the
08:38:47 15 reservation. Maybe a lot of people don't know and I
08:38:52 16 thought I'd bring it to your mind, saying that land is
08:38:56 17 supposed to be for the Cheyenne reservation. The state
08:39:02 18 and government just borrowed it for 50 years. And
08:39:08 19 50 years were up 15, 10 years ago.

08:39:13 20 Thank you.

08:39:20 21 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:39:20 22 comments.

08:39:21 23 Our next speaker is Jessie Ignacio.

08:39:46 24 JESSIE IGNACIO: Good evening and salutations.
08:39:49 25 My name is Jessie Ignacio, and I am 20 years old. And

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08:39:58 1 I'm an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

08:40:04 2 I would like to address tonight's meeting by
08:40:09 3 saying I'm going to voice what I truly believe in, and
08:40:16 4 at this moment in time, I do not care what the rest of
08:40:20 5 the world thinks, because I'm going to speak from my
08:40:23 6 heart. And if this publicly shames me later, I don't
08:40:28 7 care, because if it means saving not only this
08:40:33 8 reservation but the world and human beings as a whole,
08:40:38 9 then that should speak for something.

08:40:46 10 You're saying that this is the only other
08:40:50 11 alternative, but statistics are showing that there's
08:40:57 12 such a decline in coal, it barely lasts five years. And
08:41:01 13 you're trying to pitch that this is going to last
08:41:04 14 20 years. Where are those millions of dollars going to
08:41:08 15 be going? Who's going to see it? If you have no one to
08:41:14 16 buy it, no one's interested.

08:41:17 17 How are those resources even going to be
08:41:19 18 developed if people are going to suffer from it, the
08:41:23 19 environment, and this is the only earth that we have.
08:41:29 20 When you break down the chain of command, for the people
08:41:33 21 who think they're up here and you break down where they
08:41:38 22 stand politically, you break down the fancy words, you
08:41:41 23 break down religion, cultures, people, the black and
08:41:46 24 white, the treaties, the documentation, and all you have
08:41:52 25 is human beings living and surviving. Isn't that what

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08:41:57 1 we're trying to do? Because this is the only earth that
08:41:59 2 we're going to have, the only life that's sustainable on
08:42:10 3 this single planet.

08:42:12 4 When I was in fourth grade, they were building
08:42:14 5 a motel on the moon. None of us are going to see it.
08:42:21 6 They were building that in 2004. None of us have heard
08:42:24 7 how far they got.

08:42:28 8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How much did it cost?

08:42:32 9 JESSIE IGNACIO: None of us are going to have
08:42:33 10 a plane ticket to that moon, so why destroy this earth
08:42:36 11 that we have? And money? The Reserve writes notes for
08:42:43 12 the Federal Government, and that's money that's created
08:42:47 13 out of thin air. You really think we care about this
08:42:51 14 mysterious money that comes from said air that we have
08:42:54 15 to supposedly pay back when the government is more than
08:42:58 16 \$5 trillion in debt? And they want us to think that
08:43:01 17 we're going to have money that they're going to create
08:43:03 18 that someone else is going to pay for? Realistically,
08:43:09 19 they don't have any money. We're the ones that are
08:43:14 20 going to be supporting it. It's backbone off of what?

08:43:23 21 And history always repeats itself. There's a
08:43:28 22 lot of trauma in this area alone. Not only for tribes.
08:43:34 23 There's been suffering for others here. Ranchers have
08:43:39 24 suffered through hard times as well, getting crops to
08:43:41 25 grow, water to feed their cattle and graze their herds. 68

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08:43:48 1 You take what they have now away from them, how are they
08:43:52 2 supposed to survive as well?

08:43:54 3 We could go back and on and on about this
08:44:00 4 traumatic time in history that everyone seems to have
08:44:03 5 forgotten about places like Sheridan, Miles City,
08:44:07 6 Forsyth. Who do you think those towns are named after?
08:44:12 7 Sheridan massacred and tried to annihilate the Navajos
08:44:19 8 and worked his way up here.

08:44:20 9 Miles City fought at the Little -- well,
08:44:23 10 Miles, General Miles fought, supposedly, at the Little
08:44:28 11 Bighorn Battle and lost. Forsyth was charged with the
08:44:35 12 entire Sand Creek massacre and was only given 14 years,
08:44:40 13 to have this later acquitted and exonerated.

08:44:44 14 You think we like living here as it was? Look
08:44:48 15 at us still surviving here as it is. The government
08:44:53 16 spits in our face and they -- these are men who tried to
08:44:56 17 kill the Indian, save the man. There was an order out
08:45:00 18 for a kill all order on every single Native American.
08:45:05 19 And if we can survive that, I think we'll be better off
08:45:10 20 without this, when before we didn't have a voice.

08:45:14 21 We didn't even know English. We didn't even
08:45:17 22 know how to write. We might not have come that far, but
08:45:21 23 with the education that you've given us, we might even
08:45:24 24 be able to beat you at your own game, with education
08:45:27 25 like you provided us here today. That's what I want to 69

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08:45:31 1 look forward to.

08:45:34 2 What you've done is traumatized us so much
08:45:37 3 that we have this dark hole period. You think we wanted
08:45:41 4 to be alcoholics and drug addicts with this boarding
08:45:45 5 school experience? We were guinea pigs, hamsters. See
08:45:52 6 if we can educate them. Take away their entire way of
08:45:57 7 living, culture, our entire existence of our language,
08:46:04 8 our own religion.

08:46:06 9 Yes, we have a religion, and it's a spiritual
08:46:09 10 one, connected to this earth. Why do you think we fight
08:46:11 11 so hard for what we believe in? Because it's all around
08:46:15 12 us. We have ceremonies the way an average person would
08:46:21 13 go to church. We pray to the same God that created all
08:46:25 14 of us here. And to take everything that we've ever
08:46:29 15 known away from us and leave us with this cod liver oil
08:46:34 16 with 14 percent alcohol in it that Sioux Indians and
08:46:38 17 Cheyennes would drink themselves off of because you took
08:46:40 18 away our entire rights as a human being.

08:46:46 19 Last I checked, God was the only one allowed
08:46:49 20 to judge any man and deem them to be dead or alive. But
08:46:55 21 here in Sand Creek, you have solders parading around
08:47:00 22 with human body parts and genitalia, whole bodies as a
08:47:06 23 badge of honor. And at the Fort Robinson, you have
08:47:13 24 children's and infants' skulls used for bullet pouches,
08:47:17 25 infants used for target practice.

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08:47:20 1 We still celebrate that run, as hard as it is
08:47:22 2 to go back there, and run 400 miles every year from
08:47:27 3 Nebraska to Montana. We're still here, and I want to
08:47:32 4 send that message. I just went to Rosalie [phonetic]
08:47:35 5 Bad Horse's reception, and she graduated from La Salle
08:47:39 6 University. I hope that others can follow in her
08:47:45 7 footsteps, because I had a person tell me they're not
08:47:50 8 going to listen to you unless you have a degree.

08:47:53 9 But I stand here as evidence. I don't even
08:47:56 10 have a high school diploma. And how many people besides
08:48:01 11 me? But what I do have is knowledge, and I will
08:48:03 12 continue to learn more about this. And what I have
08:48:09 13 learned is actual facts on the coal companies.

08:48:32 14 Coal, from 2003 to 2012, it's negative
08:48:40 15 12.7 percent. And that's supposed to be change. In
08:48:46 16 2013, it was 4.8 percent. And a thousand megawatt hours
08:48:54 17 it takes to generate is at 1,514,043, for a total
08:49:02 18 percent of 37.4. When you have wind, that's at a
08:49:10 19 thriving 19.1 percent and only takes a hundred and forty
08:49:14 20 thousand eight hundred and twenty-two thousand megawatts
08:49:21 21 an hour to generate. Solar in 2013 was at 141 percent,
08:49:32 22 compared to what it was at 2004, at 200 percent. It may
08:49:41 23 have declined, but it's still in the hundred percents,
08:49:44 24 whereas 2013 for coal was at 4.8.

08:49:52 25 That's the future. And there's a man named

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08:49:56 1 Henry Red Cloud teaching the Sioux Native Americans
08:50:01 2 solar paneling, and they're thriving if we can take away
08:50:08 3 what these corporations are doing to us. We're just
08:50:14 4 giving them money that we're not seeing, living off them
08:50:16 5 as it is.

08:50:17 6 Why would we want to live off the government
08:50:18 7 after what they've done to us? Sign here, we'll give
08:50:23 8 you education, healthcare. We were given blankets with
08:50:27 9 chicken pox and all these diseases that nearly killed
08:50:31 10 us. In the 1400s there were 500,000 tribes, and that's
08:50:38 11 dwindled down to maybe 100,000 because of that. They
08:50:45 12 said, Sign here, and we'll let you live in peace.

08:50:51 13 And my husband was going to get up here and
08:50:53 14 say this, but I'm sorry, I'll beat you to this. We've
08:50:57 15 already been stripped of our land, and now it's going to
08:51:01 16 be taken from right under us for what's going to last
08:51:05 17 maybe five years, maybe not even that if you can't even
08:51:09 18 get anyone to buy it.

08:51:13 19 Here's me as a tribe right now. I own what
08:51:16 20 I'm standing on, and you think you're going to come in
08:51:19 21 here with a blanket and make me fall under it without
08:51:23 22 seeing it? I don't think so.

08:51:28 23 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

08:51:36 24 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:51:37 25 comments.

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08:51:38 1 Our next speaker is Barbara Braided Hair.

08:51:53 2 BARBARA BRAIDED HAIR: Good evening. My name
08:51:55 3 is Barbara Braided Hair, B-a-r-b-a-r-a, B-r-a-i-d-e-d,
08:52:01 4 H-a-i-r.

08:52:03 5 But my real name is Motse'ooo'e. It means
08:52:07 6 Sweet Grass Woman. I grew up on the Tongue River, and I
08:52:12 7 recognize you. So welcome back. I recognize you.

08:52:14 8 And the last time we talked, I gave you a list
08:52:18 9 of people, which has a list of people that had
08:52:22 10 homesteaded in that area that Monte was talking about.
08:52:27 11 My grandfather was a scout for the U.S. Army, and there
08:52:33 12 was 46 of them that were promised land to homestead, and
08:52:39 13 mine specifically is in the Hanging Woman Creek area,
08:52:43 14 which, unfortunately, was because of a tragedy. My
08:52:47 15 grandmother's buried there. She hung herself there.
08:52:50 16 She was tired of being moved. She was tired of running.
08:52:54 17 It's always that fight and flight feeling. And we still
08:52:57 18 have it. Still, unfortunately, because of the
08:53:01 19 generational trauma, we've passed that on. Just like we
08:53:05 20 passed on the brown of our eyes and you the blue of your
08:53:09 21 eyes. You've passed on different things that maybe
08:53:12 22 sometimes you don't want to, but in our case we passed
08:53:17 23 on that, that fight or flight.

08:53:21 24 So when my grandmother hung herself there,
08:53:23 25 they buried her there. And we go back and we feed her, 73

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08:53:27 1 because we've never forgotten. My grandmother Grace
08:53:31 2 Strange Owl, who's Tohtoo'a'e, her name was A Prairie
08:53:38 3 Woman, and it's been documented, if you look back in
08:53:43 4 your history there, the documents you have, she spoke up
08:53:47 5 against the railroad. She always told me, never forget
08:53:50 6 about it.

08:53:51 7 And she would cry when she would tell me
08:53:53 8 stories of when they forcibly took Old Man Clubfoot,
08:53:58 9 tied him on a buckboard, and they took him across the
08:54:01 10 river, and they said we're going to take this land.
08:54:04 11 We're going to have your land for 25 years. Here's \$25.
08:54:08 12 And that was supposed to be rent for 25 years.

08:54:13 13 And then we -- later on we found out that the
08:54:15 14 ranchers here, the ones that were settled here, that
08:54:18 15 were moved across off the reservation, became our
08:54:23 16 concentration camp here, they were moved off. At the
08:54:27 17 same time, they were given \$3,000.

08:54:30 18 So here on my card you'll see I have --
08:54:34 19 I've -- my organization is the Northern Cheyenne
08:54:36 20 Homestead Descendant. And probably all of us here in
08:54:41 21 this room are part descendants. We all are descendants
08:54:47 22 from those families, where we were lied to. My family
08:54:50 23 was lied to and the land was taken from them.

08:54:55 24 So I handed you that list, and it's probably
08:54:56 25 in that stack of papers somewhere in your office where

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08:54:59 1 the list still is there. We're still here and we still
08:55:05 2 have that land to claim and it's not going to go away.
08:55:07 3 So I really encourage you to look into that and really
08:55:11 4 research that part, because you'll find in that history
08:55:13 5 that is kind of tucked away in your drawers somewhere,
08:55:16 6 there's still that history there.

08:55:18 7 So today I come to you to ask you to really
08:55:22 8 look into that and really research that part, because
08:55:26 9 I'm going to be the first-time grandmother. I have a
08:55:30 10 grandson coming. That's my child's child. And my
08:55:41 11 grandmother always said, Never forget, because one day
08:55:45 12 you're going to be a grandmother. One day you're going
08:55:50 13 to want to be back on the land that was promised to your
08:55:55 14 family and to the other families.

08:55:58 15 We had homesteads from Miles City all the way
08:56:01 16 into Sheridan, and she would name those places and the
08:56:06 17 people. And she remembers them. And if she would have
08:56:09 18 been here today, she probably would have stood up again
08:56:13 19 through an interpreter and said, No railroad. We have
08:56:16 20 our land there. We have family there. We have our
08:56:19 21 loved ones buried there.

08:56:22 22 So again, take that list out. I encourage you
08:56:26 23 to really look at that and see what we can do to work
08:56:29 24 together to resolve that issue.

08:56:33 25 Thank you.

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08:56:42 1 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
08:56:43 2 comments.

08:56:43 3 Our next speaker is Steven Little Bird.

08:57:10 4 STEVEN LITTLE BIRD: My name's Steve Little
08:57:11 5 Bird, L-i-t-t-l-e, B-i-r-d.

08:57:20 6 I guess I'm the right person to speak on
08:57:25 7 trying to build a coal mine and railroad. In 1967, I
08:57:31 8 went to work at Colstrip. I worked for a company called
08:57:37 9 Long Construction and operated heavy equipment. I was
08:57:47 10 in really good health when I went down there. I worked
08:57:54 11 down there for many years. Always in good health.

08:58:01 12 Later on, when we moved to -- they called
08:58:05 13 it -- Section 29, I operated a road grader, and I was
08:58:13 14 usually the first person into the area. I made what
08:58:18 15 they called a scribe line. And sometimes I worked from
08:58:25 16 midnight till 8:00 in the morning, and I disturbed
08:58:31 17 ground over there. I never really knew what was in that
08:58:38 18 ground. It could have been old graves, something of
08:58:44 19 that nature.

08:58:45 20 These rocks that you see here, with -- Dee
08:58:51 21 Highwater [phonetic] and I, we used to be on the
08:58:53 22 demolition. What we did is we drilled holes into the
08:58:57 23 ground. We drilled holes into the sand rock and we blew
08:59:02 24 them up so that the drag line could come in and move
08:59:04 25 that dirt and go over the coal.

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08:59:09 1 We noticed these drawings. It's been quite
08:59:13 2 some time ago. And we didn't drill or we didn't blow
08:59:19 3 any of that up, but we brought it up to our supervisor,
08:59:21 4 and as a result, they brought these picture drawings up
08:59:27 5 here.

08:59:29 6 I guess what I'm trying to say is that, you
08:59:32 7 know, I earned a good living working for the coal mine,
08:59:36 8 that there's no doubt about that. I always enjoyed
08:59:42 9 receiving a big hefty check every two weeks. And when I
08:59:47 10 was in good health, you know, that -- it boosted my way
08:59:56 11 of living. I could compete with Mr. Smith and
08:59:59 12 Mr. Jones, you know. I had -- at one time I had, like,
09:00:04 13 seven vehicles and my home was properly furnished.

09:00:10 14 But over the years, as I worked in Colstrip,
09:00:14 15 my health began to degenerate, and in 1993 I had a
09:00:21 16 stroke. Why, I don't know. As I got better, in 1998 I
09:00:29 17 was diagnosed with lung cancer. You know, when I was
09:00:34 18 out there in the mine, I ended up at the coal shovel.
09:00:39 19 We'd pick up the coal and we'd dump it into these big,
09:00:42 20 humungous coal haulers. I would take a shower down
09:00:47 21 there at Colstrip and wash all this black dust off of
09:00:52 22 me. I would come home, I would take another shower, and
09:00:58 23 this coal dust would still wash off of me.

09:01:02 24 Well, as I battled lung cancer, they
09:01:06 25 discovered that my lungs weren't quite like they were

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09:01:11 1 supposed to be. And this was all from the coal dust.
09:01:18 2 You can't see that coal dust. We're down there and
09:01:20 3 we're in these big machines. We pick up this coal and
09:01:24 4 this coal dust flies. Even though we're in an enclosed
09:01:28 5 area, this coal dust still gets into our system. This
09:01:39 6 cancer almost killed me. You know, like I was saying, I
09:01:45 7 was pretty healthy.

09:01:47 8 And I moved away from here. You know, I grew
09:01:53 9 up over in Ashland, along the banks of the Tongue River.
09:01:59 10 I'd go with my grandmother and my grandfather. And we
09:02:06 11 enjoyed life. I used to go with my grandpa. We used to
09:02:10 12 work for those ranchers with their odd jobs to earn a
09:02:17 13 living, but we also had gardens and we'd haul water from
09:02:22 14 the Tongue River. We hauled it by hand. We had a
09:02:27 15 pretty good-sized garden.

09:02:29 16 And the water was clean. We used to swim in
09:02:33 17 that water. Today they always say don't drink that
09:02:36 18 water. Don't swim in it. Why? I don't know. It's all
09:02:46 19 these chemicals and everything that we've uncovered that
09:02:49 20 we've disturbed the land.

09:02:52 21 You know, I'm proud of my heritage. I'm very
09:02:55 22 traditional. As a young man, when I was just 15 years
09:03:02 23 old, I danced in a Sun Dance. I belong to the Native
09:03:09 24 American Church. I go to sweats. I'm a descendant of
09:03:18 25 Little Wolf, and he brought us back here to our

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09:03:21 1 homeland.

09:03:22 2 You know, my uncle Mike was saying we believe
09:03:27 3 in our traditional ways. But I've also lived among your
09:03:33 4 world. I lived in Phoenix for six years. I know what
09:03:41 5 it's like to compete with you people. I worked in
09:03:45 6 Washington, D.C., for a year. I worked for Lucille
09:03:50 7 Dawson at Smithsonian. And I've seen what it is back
09:03:57 8 there. It's always hurry, hurry, hurry. Never take the
09:04:01 9 time to smell the roses.

09:04:07 10 And I agree with most of these people that
09:04:09 11 spoke. You know, Wally McRae over there, whenever he
09:04:15 12 had an injured cow or something that -- and he's always
09:04:20 13 been a good neighbor to us. Luke Cole [phonetic] over
09:04:24 14 here, they've always been good neighbors. Wally, he
09:04:27 15 used to come over and tell my dad and my uncle that he
09:04:31 16 had a cow that broke a leg, he'd give it to us. So we'd
09:04:34 17 go down there and butcher it. His cows were healthy
09:04:37 18 because they fed on good grass.

09:04:43 19 You know, us Native Americans, we've gone
09:04:47 20 through quite a bit, but us Native Americans have helped
09:04:51 21 you people. November 2nd, 1942, when the United States
09:04:58 22 got involved in World War II, they made their first
09:05:03 23 landing November 2nd, 1942, in North Africa, not one
09:05:07 24 single man wanted to carry that American flag. My dad
09:05:14 25 volunteered to carry that flag, United States. As a

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09:05:20 1 result he got shot three times, but he survived. So
09:05:27 2 we've done a lot.

09:05:32 3 The Navajo Nation, the Comanche Nation,
09:05:37 4 different tribes have been code talkers to help us win
09:05:42 5 World War II. And yet we always get the bottom end of
09:05:47 6 the stick.

09:05:48 7 When I was working down there in Colstrip,
09:05:50 8 whenever they had a layoff, it's always lay the Indian
09:05:56 9 off, and that was me. I always got laid off. Later on
09:06:04 10 they'd call me back. I'd go back to work.

09:06:08 11 So you guys have the power to stop this
09:06:12 12 railroad and that's all we're asking. We don't want
09:06:17 13 that. You might think that I would be for it, since I
09:06:24 14 earned a healthy living down there in Colstrip, but I'm
09:06:26 15 not. This has done a lot to decimate our people here.
09:06:37 16 It's not going to do us any good.

09:06:40 17 A lot of people that are going to work there
09:06:43 18 are probably not going to be Cheyennes. All of them
09:06:48 19 people living in Colstrip, a majority of them, about
09:06:52 20 95 percent of them, most of them are from North Dakota,
09:06:55 21 South Dakota, Minnesota, somewhere else. They're not
09:06:58 22 natives here. But they came in here to live over there
09:07:02 23 and work over there. They don't know. They don't know
09:07:10 24 our way of life here. You guys don't know. And yet you
09:07:15 25 control this.

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09:07:20 1 So I'm just saying, you know, we don't need
09:07:23 2 it. It's not going to help us. It's not going to
09:07:27 3 benefit our tribe, because they're going to treat all
09:07:29 4 the Cheyennes the same way they treated me down there.
09:07:36 5 Whenever it's time to lay somebody off, who are they
09:07:38 6 going to lay off? They're going to lay off the Indians.
09:07:43 7 They might hire us to make themselves look good, but
09:07:48 8 that's not it. They're always going to look out for
09:07:53 9 their own first. So please, don't do it.

09:08:00 10 Thank you.

09:08:04 11 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
09:08:05 12 comments.

09:08:29 13 Ladies and gentlemen, we're just going to take
09:08:31 14 a quick break so our court reporter can just stretch her
09:08:34 15 legs for a moment. Just give us a quick two minutes and
09:08:37 16 then we'll continue on with the rest of our speakers, if
09:08:40 17 that's okay.

09:08:41 18 Thank you.

09:19:11 19 (Break.)

09:19:12 20 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're
09:19:12 21 going to go ahead and resume our meeting with the next
09:19:15 22 speaker.

09:19:15 23 LaVonda Brady.

09:19:17 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let me go get her.

09:19:19 25 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you.

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09:20:01 1 So while we're waiting on LaVonda Brady,
09:20:04 2 after LaVonda Brady is Curtis Elkshoulder. I don't know
09:20:08 3 if he came back or not.

09:20:09 4 And then after Curtis Elkshoulder is Avalee
09:20:13 5 Little Whirlwind.

09:20:24 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You had mentioned that
09:20:25 7 when the list of speakers have gone through there will
09:20:27 8 be time for all the folks to say more. Still have time
09:20:31 9 for that?

09:20:36 10 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Yes.

09:20:38 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

09:20:40 12 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: LaVonda Brady?

09:20:42 13 LaVONDA BRADY: Yes. My name is LaVonda
09:20:48 14 Brady, B-r-a-d-y. And my real name is Woman Stands on
09:20:55 15 Land. I'm here today -- I'm here today -- it's really
09:21:09 16 emotional, because you're on my land, and the things
09:21:18 17 that you guys are going to do to our land, to our
09:21:21 18 people, we'll never be the same. We don't know if we
09:21:26 19 will exist.

09:21:29 20 We are just a small tribe. Many things have
09:21:34 21 happened. No one came to help. You look at Colstrip
09:21:40 22 when they first started building the plants. Suicide
09:21:45 23 rate went way up. Alcoholism, drugs came to us. No one
09:21:53 24 cared. We would get harassed from the white people,
09:21:59 25 white children from Colstrip. They would come flying

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09:22:03 1 through our roads here and turn around and go back out.
09:22:08 2 Most of the people still walked. There were a lot of
09:22:11 3 children on the street, old people.

09:22:14 4 Many things have happened. I worked for the
09:22:16 5 ambulance service, so I seen a lot. There were people
09:22:20 6 out in the hills, white people. They were doing drugs,
09:22:27 7 drinking. It's like no one had no control over it. No
09:22:32 8 one came to give aid. We didn't get any more money for
09:22:38 9 anything. We just had to deal with what we had. And
09:22:45 10 it -- it's not going to change.

09:22:50 11 When I grew up, I lived in Ashland for a
09:22:53 12 while, and then we went back to Lame Deer. That is
09:23:00 13 where I started learning about our people, our
09:23:05 14 traditional laws, our way of life. My grandfather, he
09:23:11 15 would take me to So'taa'eo'o meetings, because I was
09:23:16 16 supposed to be a sister to the societies. So I became
09:23:20 17 familiar with our traditional law.

09:23:23 18 A lot of the things that had happened to the
09:23:24 19 people, they talked about the aid that the government
09:23:27 20 was supposed to give. Where are we in this whole
09:23:34 21 scenario? We are always the last ones to know. We
09:23:38 22 do -- people don't come and tell them, hey, this is what
09:23:43 23 we're -- we want to do. You're already here and you're
09:23:47 24 already telling us that there's no alternative, that
09:23:51 25 this is something that has to be done. No, it doesn't. 83

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09:23:56 1 We live here. We will live here forever. This is our
09:23:59 2 homeland. This is something that we, we acquired
09:24:06 3 because of you people coming into the United States. We
09:24:13 4 gave up our lands.

09:24:16 5 Where is Congress? Where is the Secretary of
09:24:18 6 the Interior? They are supposed to be here when things
09:24:23 7 like this happens. They're supposed to speak for us.
09:24:29 8 Because we're not familiar with their ways and neither
09:24:35 9 are you.

09:24:36 10 I've read some of the posts that were written
09:24:38 11 about how we were trying to feed people to come in.
09:24:44 12 That's -- I can't believe that. You know nothing about
09:24:49 13 our people. We know something about you. We've gotten
09:24:57 14 assimilated. So we're aware of the way you do business,
09:25:01 15 and that's not good.

09:25:07 16 One of the things that our people, their lives
09:25:11 17 is based is being on honest -- honesty, truth, never to
09:25:16 18 steal, never to cheat, never to lie. That is the
09:25:19 19 sequela to killing people. But when people like this
09:25:24 20 come in, they can say anything. They will try to make
09:25:29 21 things look bad. And you look at what's going on in the
09:25:33 22 United States and Canada. There's genocide, cultural
09:25:38 23 genocide, and that's what's going to happen here. It
09:25:41 24 already has. Because of the school systems. Has
09:25:45 25 anybody come to our aid? No.

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09:25:49 1 This is your making. This is what you want
09:25:51 2 our people to do, is to become like you, and we can
09:25:56 3 never become like you. Look at my skin. Look at your
09:26:01 4 skin. Do you think you'll ever wear the color of my
09:26:04 5 skin? No. Do you think I'll ever wear the color of
09:26:07 6 your skin? No.

09:26:12 7 I don't know what is so important about this
09:26:14 8 railroad or the coal. We all know what it does. You
09:26:20 9 read it in the news all the time. You find out how bad
09:26:24 10 it is. And no one, no one has ever stepped up to -- has
09:26:33 11 anybody said, okay, this is what we're going to do if
09:26:35 12 this happens or that happens? No.

09:26:38 13 What we see on newspaper, you know, that we're
09:26:41 14 trying to entice people to come in just because we're
09:26:44 15 feeding, you don't know anything about our people.
09:26:48 16 That's one of the things that we do. We feed people.
09:26:52 17 No matter what we do, we always feed people. That's
09:26:56 18 honoring and respecting people. That's our culture.
09:26:59 19 It's been with us for -- since the dawn of time. That's
09:27:06 20 a part of our culture. That's our way. And when you
09:27:09 21 talk about our people that way, you have no respect.
09:27:14 22 You have no honor in what you're doing. You just want
09:27:18 23 to come in and tell us what to do, what choices that we
09:27:20 24 have.

09:27:22 25 Why has it come to this point already? No one₈₅

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09:27:26 1 has ever really come and talked to us, not even the
09:27:29 2 tribal council. And I -- it really appalls me that
09:27:39 3 people think that maybe we're dumb and stupid. But we
09:27:44 4 have something over you. We've been assimilated and we
09:27:47 5 know about you, but you know nothing about us.

09:27:51 6 And I am the fifth generation descendant of
09:27:56 7 Little Wolf. Little Wolf used to attack railroads. He
09:28:00 8 dismantled them. We still feel the same way. Third
09:28:05 9 generation, they were fighting coal development. My
09:28:11 10 grandfather fought coal development. I was there. We
09:28:15 11 went down when ARCO came and they fought him and they
09:28:18 12 had a standoff. I was young.

09:28:23 13 As for me, you know what my grandfather wanted
09:28:27 14 me to be, a society sister. That's forever when you
09:28:31 15 actually become that, but I -- they started teaching me.
09:28:36 16 I know about our history. The history with the white
09:28:38 17 people, it hasn't ever been any good. It's never been
09:28:42 18 any good.

09:28:43 19 And now you come to us today and say that we
09:28:45 20 don't have a choice? No, we have a choice. We don't
09:28:48 21 want it. You guys are going to have to take it down.
09:28:53 22 You're going to have to go look for somewhere else to
09:28:56 23 go. You have to fly it over, fly it. You're going to
09:29:00 24 get all of this money, okay, use a plane, fly it out of
09:29:06 25 here. But not here, not around here. You're not going 86

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09:29:09 1 to touch our land. Because we're going to fight for it.

09:29:14 2 I don't care what it takes. But nobody's going to do

09:29:17 3 that train and nobody's going to do coal development.

09:29:21 4 You don't even realize what's down there, and

09:29:24 5 you don't even know -- you guys claim that you've done

09:29:27 6 EIS. Okay, why isn't it made simple for people to

09:29:33 7 understand? Why don't they go house-to-house and

09:29:36 8 explain what's going on?

09:29:38 9 We already know. My grandfather already told

09:29:41 10 me about this land. They say this land it's (speaking

09:29:44 11 in native language), it means it's powder. Any

09:29:48 12 movement, it will always shift. And the Harp

09:29:56 13 Barechum [phonetic], they did -- they went and tested

09:29:58 14 the soil. They went through the whole land, the water.

09:30:02 15 It's going to affect our water table. We're not going

09:30:05 16 to have any water. We're not going to have any good

09:30:08 17 water. If that's -- if they already did their studies,

09:30:11 18 why didn't they find that? Or do they just pick and

09:30:14 19 choose what they want to use and what they think is

09:30:17 20 going to make it passed?

09:30:20 21 You have a lot of -- there's -- when they were

09:30:23 22 talking about Otter Creek, Sioux came over and they say

09:30:28 23 some of this land is theirs. Have you ever considered

09:30:31 24 that? Have you considered anything else? Who else?

09:30:35 25 Who are the tribes might have a say in this area?

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09:30:40 1 All these lands have been promised, and they
09:30:44 2 keep breaking them and they'll make another one until we
09:30:46 3 came up with this reservation. But even Bearcoat, they
09:30:52 4 went and staked it off, and it was supposed to be almost
09:30:55 5 the size of Montana, what we own. And before that it
09:30:59 6 was several states. And each one, they would pass, they
09:31:05 7 would promise.

09:31:11 8 So I don't know how you guys could even begin
09:31:13 9 to think of, you know, coming in here and doing things.
09:31:17 10 You need to do your research. You need to find out who
09:31:23 11 you need to be speaking to. It's hard on us.

09:31:27 12 Culturally, woman aren't supposed to be up here sitting
09:31:30 13 talking. And it shames us, it brings us shame, but we
09:31:34 14 have to be forced into doing this. Because if we don't
09:31:40 15 do it, you're going to pick up and leave. And what does
09:31:45 16 that do to us? It's almost like it's a done deal.

09:31:51 17 You guys are the ones that are always calling
09:31:53 18 the shots, telling us what you want from us, or what
09:31:58 19 you're going to do to us, or what you're going to do to
09:32:01 20 our land. You people may be able to move around. You
09:32:06 21 can pick up from one place and move to another. You can
09:32:09 22 go to another country and it doesn't mean anything to
09:32:12 23 you. But we have lived here for so long, generations.
09:32:19 24 We fought all the time. You look at Custer battle, has
09:32:25 25 that ever been settled? No. When Congress wanted to do₈₈

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09:32:29 1 termination, Republicans, they put it out there and
09:32:33 2 there was an article in there. It's never been settled.
09:32:38 3 And yet you guys keep coming in and trying to say you're
09:32:43 4 going to do this and do that. You can't. Because this
09:32:49 5 is our homeland.

09:32:50 6 You have people thinking that you can come in
09:32:52 7 here and do it. No, you can't. How about let me take a
09:32:57 8 bulldozer and go through your house, and I say I'm going
09:33:01 9 to do that. What would you do? You would call the law
09:33:04 10 enforcement. You'd call everybody. And look at what
09:33:10 11 you guys are doing to us. This is our homeland. We may
09:33:14 12 live in houses, but we still move around. We still do
09:33:18 13 our ceremonies. Our ceremonies aren't done in town.
09:33:25 14 They go all the way to Bear Butte. Some people will go
09:33:28 15 down to Oklahoma. Do you even know? No, you don't.
09:33:36 16 Because you guys think that you can come in here and
09:33:38 17 tell us what to do. You can't.

09:33:44 18 For once I would like to see the Secretary of
09:33:47 19 Interior here. That's their obligation to the Indian
09:33:54 20 people. And yet we sit here before you. Why isn't
09:34:01 21 it -- should it be -- you should be sitting before us.
09:34:04 22 This is our land, you're on our reservation. It's kind
09:34:14 23 of flipped, but that's what you want people to believe.
09:34:18 24 Those corporations out there, that's what they want you
09:34:21 25 to believe. We have to go to them. We have to answer

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09:34:23 1 to them. No, we don't.

09:34:30 2 At some point we have to settle this and it's
09:34:32 3 got to be done soon, because I'm tired of it. I'm tired
09:34:37 4 of running. I'm tired of not having a future to look
09:34:44 5 forward to, to live quietly. I'm getting old. I'm
09:34:49 6 57 years old. I have grandchildren. I have two more on
09:34:54 7 the way.

09:34:56 8 We don't even have -- our government isn't
09:34:59 9 even stable. We don't have stable housing. We get
09:35:04 10 promised a lot of things and it never really happens. I
09:35:07 11 found out that my house, they did not use any building
09:35:10 12 codes. I bought that house from HUD. A lot of houses
09:35:15 13 are like that way around here. There was a decision,
09:35:17 14 they said they cannot build houses with foundations or
09:35:24 15 basements because the ground moves so much, it shifts so
09:35:27 16 much.

09:35:28 17 You put that railroad in over there, that
09:35:31 18 vibration is eventually going to get here and it's going
09:35:34 19 to start shifting and moving everything around. Do you
09:35:37 20 think it's going to be safe for us to live here? No.
09:35:41 21 When you guys make that railroad, you're practically
09:35:49 22 sentencing us to death. I don't know if you understand
09:35:55 23 that. I don't know if you know what that means. Or is
09:35:58 24 it so much that they've got you guys talked into that
09:36:01 25 everything is okay and that we're going to do it

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09:36:04 1 anyways? There is so much that you don't know about and
09:36:12 2 everybody just goes along with it. Why? Because of
09:36:14 3 money. We don't really know anything about money. Some
09:36:19 4 people do. Unemployment's really high over here. Not
09:36:24 5 very many people work here. But we're okay with that.

09:36:29 6 We barely survive. They make pacts with the
09:36:33 7 state to do welfare, whatever medical care, all this
09:36:37 8 stuff. It's supposed to be through the Federal
09:36:40 9 Government, not state. Every time it seems like we're
09:36:45 10 always trying to get geared to go through the state, no,
09:36:47 11 we can't go through the state.

09:36:50 12 We are a tribal government. We have
09:36:52 13 sovereignty. And you guys should be working through the
09:36:54 14 Secretary of Interior and Congress, not through the
09:37:00 15 state, not through some corporation. You have violated
09:37:07 16 our rights. If you want to do anything, go through them
09:37:15 17 and tell them what you want. Not coming here and coming
09:37:19 18 through the back door, because that back door don't
09:37:21 19 work.

09:37:29 20 Now, if people cry loud enough, yeah, it
09:37:31 21 probably will happen. You're going to have to use the
09:37:33 22 front door. And I'm sure that people don't want to put
09:37:37 23 up with it, because this is our home. This is where we
09:37:42 24 live. We can't pick up and move. We don't want to. We
09:37:46 25 lived here for so long.

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09:37:48 1 My grandfathers, yeah, a lot of them, our
09:37:51 2 relatives, they died for this land. They made their
09:37:54 3 trek back from Oklahoma. My grandparents were
09:37:57 4 Wokana [phonetic], my great-great-great-grandparents.
09:38:01 5 Little Wolf, Braided Hair, Kills Night. A lot of these
09:38:06 6 people, everybody, their families had to walk back.
09:38:10 7 Cavalry was chasing them during the wintertime. They
09:38:13 8 lost people. But they made it back here. And now you
09:38:20 9 want to come and do us in because, basically, that's
09:38:24 10 what you're going to do.

09:38:30 11 I don't know, I just -- I cannot understand
09:38:32 12 you people. I don't. And I don't think I ever will.
09:38:39 13 Because ours -- life comes first. Love and land, they
09:38:46 14 always come first. Our blood is our life. Woman are
09:38:51 15 really important here, because they're the givers of
09:38:53 16 life. Men, they speak for us. And then if you guys
09:39:00 17 really want to do something, you need to follow that.
09:39:04 18 Don't bring shame to our people. We're having to
09:39:07 19 force -- we're being forced to come and talk. But woman
09:39:15 20 is important to them, because they raise the children.
09:39:20 21 They take care of the home.

09:39:24 22 And I don't like -- I don't like feeling like
09:39:27 23 that way. I don't like being degraded that way. If you
09:39:32 24 want to talk to anybody, you come and talk to our men
09:39:36 25 folk. There is a process that you take with that too.

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09:39:44 1 So maybe you guys need to start from the
09:39:45 2 beginning because this probably isn't going to count.
09:39:50 3 You're dealing with a nation. We have sovereignty.
09:39:54 4 This is a country. There's federal laws to follow. And
09:40:03 5 I think it's time that you guys started following that,
09:40:05 6 because I don't think these women here would want to be
09:40:11 7 shamed that way if they were a part of our tribe.

09:40:19 8 You bring a lot of shame to our people.
09:40:21 9 Assimilation is still going on. This today what we're
09:40:27 10 going through, this is assimilation. You look at what's
09:40:32 11 going on all over the world, even in Canada. They just
09:40:36 12 got through doing an investigation, and theirs was --
09:40:45 13 they found that to be cultural genocide. Today that's
09:40:50 14 what you're doing to us. I don't appreciate it. But we
09:40:55 15 try to make room. But why should we make room?

09:41:05 16 I want to thank you for your time and I hope
09:41:09 17 that you really will strongly consider what you're doing
09:41:13 18 and how you're doing it. Your methods aren't ours. We
09:41:17 19 don't have to follow your methods. It's time that you
09:41:20 20 start following ours.

09:41:24 21 Thank you.

09:41:27 22 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
09:41:28 23 comments.

09:41:31 24 Next speaker is Curtis Elkshoulder.

09:41:42 25 Our next speaker is Avalee Little Whirlwind.

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09:41:51 1 Our next speaker is Lori Clubfoot.

09:42:04 2 LORI CLUBFOOTE: My name's Lori Clubfoot. My
09:42:08 3 Indian name is Ve'keseha'e for Woman. And this is my
09:42:12 4 grandbaby. I'm raising him.

09:42:15 5 And ever since I heard about this railroad,
09:42:19 6 like five, six years ago, I was always against it,
09:42:24 7 because I want my grandbaby to have a home. He's still
09:42:30 8 got a lot of years. Sixty, 70 years from now, I want
09:42:35 9 him to be able to call this his home. And I just want
09:42:42 10 you to look at him and think about him that way.

09:42:48 11 I don't think I'll ever get to see his father.
09:42:51 12 His father's in prison, probably forever. And his mom,
09:42:57 13 my daughter, she's a teenager, and she's still got a
09:43:01 14 life goal, and I want her to go back to school and --
09:43:07 15 but I just want you to know that I'm a young grandmother
09:43:12 16 and I'm raising my grandbaby, and I want him to be able
09:43:15 17 to come home whenever he wants.

09:43:20 18 We live on a ranch, the Robinson ranch, and
09:43:25 19 when you wake up really early in the morning, like 5:00,
09:43:30 20 5:00 o'clock, he gets up real early, I come outside and
09:43:34 21 have a cup of coffee and sit with him. The sun's just
09:43:38 22 coming up and it's very beautiful down there. And
09:43:43 23 sometimes I see deer roaming in the yard, ducks, geese.
09:43:51 24 There's cows out there, horses. And I just want to
09:43:59 25 always be able to live that way. I grew up in the

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09:44:02 1 country. I didn't grow up in the city.

09:44:07 2 And I want you just to imagine you sitting
09:44:12 3 here and there's a railroad next to you. Like, I'm
09:44:14 4 sitting here and you're sitting here and there's a
09:44:17 5 railroad car there. I just want you to know that I want
09:44:24 6 my grandson to have a home. I'm the only one that works
09:44:30 7 in my family. My husband's going to soon be getting a
09:44:34 8 job. And my paycheck's \$600 every two weeks, 80 hours,
09:44:45 9 and I got rent to pay, lights, phone. And I want to
09:44:52 10 teach my grandson to work, but I also want him to know
09:44:58 11 our cultural ways.

09:45:04 12 Anyway, thank you for coming here listening to
09:45:06 13 us, and I didn't get to speak last time we had this, but
09:45:14 14 thank you.

09:45:18 15 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
09:45:19 16 comments.

09:45:20 17 Our next speaker is Tiri Brien.

09:45:32 18 Our next speaker is Susan Little Wolf.

09:45:44 19 Okay. Is there anyone who has not provided an
09:45:46 20 oral comment that would like the opportunity to provide
09:45:49 21 an oral comment this evening?

09:45:53 22 LORRAINE WATERS: I do. I'm just going to be
09:45:58 23 brief. I have a grandson out there.

09:46:06 24 My name is Lorraine Waters [phonetic]. I grew
09:46:08 25 up in Kirby, Busby, and I live here.

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09:46:26 1 As an elderly Northern Cheyenne woman living
09:46:30 2 here in Lame Deer, I'm opposed to the Tongue River
09:46:34 3 Railroad Company construction and operation of the new
09:46:39 4 railroad line in southeastern Montana. I pray that the
09:46:45 5 Northern Cheyenne comments are taken seriously, to those
09:46:51 6 of us who oppose this development of the railroad and
09:46:56 7 the coal mining. And I am aware that it is in the
09:47:04 8 interests of the corporation, of the railroad and coal
09:47:09 9 companies, and not the interests of the Cheyennes.
09:47:14 10 Because it's all in corporate interest, here in America.

09:47:21 11 For an example, when I went to San Francisco
09:47:23 12 on the Amtrak, the train would only stop for a minute
09:47:31 13 because the energy company -- or the Burlington owned
09:47:36 14 the tracks and they only had one minute to get off the
09:47:39 15 train. So I'm standing there, don't throw me off. I
09:47:44 16 know you only got one minute. And if they go over that
09:47:47 17 minute, they were fined by the Burlington railroad
09:47:52 18 company. That's what I was told. So we -- they had
09:47:56 19 their chairs ready and we threw our bags out and they
09:48:00 20 hustled us off, and off the train we went. And they
09:48:04 21 went pretty fast too, so ...

09:48:07 22 But I don't want the interference from outside
09:48:12 23 people here. Living here, I like how we're living here.
09:48:17 24 I enjoy being here. So I just want to express my
09:48:22 25 interests, my comments to that if you would listen to

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09:48:24 1 us, please, those of us that are opposing it.

09:48:29 2 Good night.

09:48:33 3 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
09:48:34 4 comments.

09:48:36 5 Was there someone over on the side that raised
09:48:38 6 their hand?

09:48:47 7 LISA LIMPY: Hello. Good evening. My name's
09:48:50 8 Lisa Limpy [phonetic], and I live in the Birney area,
09:48:52 9 near the Tongue River. I grew up here and I left. I'm
09:49:03 10 a veteran. I joined the military in '89. I came back
09:49:06 11 in 2008. And one of the big things that -- I've
09:49:15 12 experienced life out there in different countries, this
09:49:18 13 country and different states, but the thing that always
09:49:22 14 kept me going forward is my -- it gave me peace and
09:49:27 15 comfort, was knowing that I could come back home and
09:49:29 16 that it would be the same.

09:49:32 17 When you step outside these boundaries,
09:49:33 18 there's really nowhere you can go to get some peace, but
09:49:38 19 you can do that here. You can walk out into the hills
09:49:40 20 and not have to worry about running into people or, you
09:49:47 21 know, vehicles or whatever, this and that. If you bring
09:49:50 22 that railroad in here, we're not going to have that.

09:49:53 23 It's going to disrupt our whole way of life. We have a
09:49:57 24 peaceful life. Granted, it's not wealthy, but we're --
09:50:04 25 we like it. This is what we choose. We have life that

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09:50:07 1 we live because this is the way we choose to live. And
09:50:12 2 we don't want to be disrupted.

09:50:14 3 It's nice that every once in a while I can see
09:50:18 4 the buffalo out my backyard, you know, deer, all kinds
09:50:23 5 of wildlife. Coyotes. You bring that railroad in here,
09:50:27 6 we're not going to have that. I mean, you're running
09:50:32 7 off the civilization, whatever, for the sake of -- I
09:50:36 8 don't know what you guys are trying to do. But we need
09:50:39 9 to keep our land intact. Just leave us alone.

09:50:44 10 That's all I got to say.

09:50:52 11 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Is there anyone else who
09:50:53 12 has not -- ma'am?

09:51:04 13 JENNIFER REDFOX SPANG: Hello. My name's
09:51:05 14 Jennifer Redfox Spang, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r, R-e-d-f-o-x,
09:51:11 15 S-p-a-n-g.

09:51:15 16 This past weekend, I and my husband went to
09:51:20 17 the Reynolds battle on the other side of Fort -- the
09:51:25 18 park up here, Custer National Forest, and I'm wondering
09:51:30 19 why their -- if any of their representatives are here.
09:51:33 20 Because we went over -- went up Dow Creek, which is --
09:51:40 21 the railroad's going to be going by. And we seen a lot
09:51:44 22 of wildlife out there, and it's beautiful, beautiful out
09:51:48 23 there.

09:51:48 24 And the one thing that -- I live in Birney
09:51:53 25 also. I -- and that's going to -- I have grandkids and 98

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09:51:58 1 family that live in Birney. And that railroad will
09:52:05 2 impact our families in Birney, since we'll be closest to
09:52:12 3 the railroad. But what I wanted to talk about was our
09:52:21 4 ancestors, you've been told, have -- came a long ways
09:52:24 5 for us to be here. And, you know, it's not perfect
09:52:29 6 here. You know, we have our internal problems here.

09:52:35 7 And what I see happening is that we have other
09:52:42 8 resources that we can use to develop on our reservation.
09:52:48 9 We have a feasibility study for a new project and that
09:52:53 10 will provide us with -- you know, and we don't have the
09:52:58 11 money to do this project. Where the one thing that I
09:53:10 12 really stand by is that we are a proud people and
09:53:15 13 along -- when the -- before the white people came, we
09:53:18 14 were a proud and respected tribe and we were feared.
09:53:23 15 And it was a respective fear. It wasn't anything but
09:53:29 16 that.

09:53:30 17 And then the government came and white people
09:53:33 18 came and now we live the way we live now. We live by
09:53:37 19 your guys' rules. And we want to become self-sustaining
09:53:41 20 again, and with that railroad train, that's not going to
09:53:45 21 be -- is not going to help us achieve that goal.

09:53:49 22 So if the railroad comes and all the people --
09:53:54 23 right now the traffic that comes on that road from
09:53:58 24 Birney to Lame Deer will be even more. A lot of
09:54:08 25 different people will be coming through there. We have 99

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09:54:10 1 nothing in Birney. We don't have a gas station. We
09:54:13 2 don't have a store. We don't even have a post office.
09:54:18 3 So if you guys bring that to us, you know, take that
09:54:25 4 peace away that Lisa was talking about.

09:54:31 5 When I first heard about this Tongue River
09:54:35 6 Railroad coming, it was scary. And then the Bakken came
09:54:45 7 and all the different people. You know, Ashland's going
09:54:48 8 to be impacted. The Ashland people all up and down the
09:54:51 9 Tongue River, the people that live there will be
09:54:54 10 impacted by this railroad.

09:55:02 11 Back in the '70s, when coal development was
09:55:04 12 brought to the people, we fought against it because it
09:55:07 13 wasn't going to do us any good, and I can't -- the
09:55:11 14 railroad coming. And our traditions and values that we
09:55:16 15 have here now need to stay here with us, because our
09:55:24 16 ancestors fought for us to be here where we're at.

09:55:31 17 And you bring in that railroad, everything's
09:55:34 18 going to change. Our social life's going to change.
09:55:39 19 Drugs, more drugs will come in. Alcohol, which is
09:55:43 20 rampant on our reservation right now, but bringing that
09:55:47 21 to us will only enhance that.

09:55:50 22 So when you look at and make your decision,
09:55:54 23 don't look at it as individuals, but as a people that
09:55:57 24 live here. And we've lived here for over 100 years.
09:56:02 25 And think about us people that are here, the Cheyenne

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09:56:09 1 Nation, our kids, our grandparents, and our
09:56:15 2 grandchildren. I'm a grandmother. I have eleven
09:56:19 3 grandkids. And so we -- I ask you to think about our
09:56:29 4 generations and our future here.

09:56:34 5 The one thing that I looked in your guys'
09:56:37 6 ES -- EIS pamphlet that you had, nowhere on there does
09:56:42 7 it say how -- if there's compensation, are we going to
09:56:47 8 be compensated for it? And to me the whole idea of this
09:56:59 9 railroad isn't only going to affect the farmers that
09:57:03 10 live up and down the railroad, but also that park. And
09:57:08 11 I'm not sure if the national -- Custer National Forest
09:57:13 12 was -- is a part of this EIS.

09:57:16 13 But I guess that's all I wanted to say to you
09:57:21 14 people that are going to decide -- that are going to
09:57:25 15 decide our future and where we're going to go from
09:57:31 16 there, because we have no grounds to go. This is it for
09:57:34 17 us.

09:57:36 18 Thank you.

09:57:40 19 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
09:57:41 20 comments.

09:57:43 21 Is there anyone else that would like to
09:57:44 22 provide an oral comment this evening?

09:57:46 23 Sir?

09:57:55 24 MICHAEL WHITEMAN: Good evening, guys. My
09:57:57 25 name is Michael Whiteman, born and raised here all my 101

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09:58:02 1 life. Everybody knows everybody here.

09:58:06 2 You know, the railroad and everything is going
09:58:08 3 to be real good for everything, right? I see your
09:58:13 4 crossing there, across the seasoning [phonetic], right?
09:58:17 5 But only one factor, everything that's going to happen
09:58:20 6 to everything is that there's going to be a lot of
09:58:22 7 death. And I'm talking about, you know, our neighbors
09:58:26 8 over here, you know, they're not our allies, but they're
09:58:31 9 our brothers, you know, too, in some way, the Crows.

09:58:34 10 The railroad track comes through there, every
09:58:37 11 one of those intersections, there's a lot of death that
09:58:40 12 happens there. I don't know what, but I know that it
09:58:48 13 traps those vehicles and it shuts them down and there is
09:58:50 14 a lot of collisions that happens there.

09:58:51 15 Those railroad spills that happen takes care
09:58:54 16 of the -- you know, the spills alone erupts and it takes
09:58:59 17 care of the environment, and the environment that we
09:59:03 18 walk on, as a lot of us all know, a lot of us all walk.
09:59:09 19 Our kids walk. They play around. They're going to be
09:59:13 20 playing around on the -- we all know that our kids are
09:59:17 21 pretty much exploratory people and they're going to do
09:59:22 22 whatever they want to do. And get around anything
09:59:24 23 brand-new, they're going to explore it.

09:59:27 24 So when things happen, are you guys going to
09:59:29 25 be able to compensate just like the way, you know,

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09:59:36 1 Lorraine here from Birney said, all those things that
09:59:38 2 happened, are you guys going to be able to say, Yeah, we
09:59:42 3 gotcha?

09:59:44 4 And another thing is that you guys are all
09:59:46 5 soundboards. Where's the real big dog? How come he's
09:59:51 6 not here? How come he's not sitting over here asking --
09:59:55 7 answering these questions that we are asking them?
09:59:58 8 We're just -- you guys are just here -- you guys are
10:00:02 9 about ready to go to sleep, aren't you? Because I'm
10:00:04 10 about ready to go to sleep too.

10:00:06 11 You guys ain't making no difference, where my
10:00:09 12 elders and my -- are you there going to be affected by
10:00:15 13 you guys' recording and you guys are going to go back
10:00:19 14 and say, man, that's another day? You guys get paid
10:00:24 15 everything that you guys do, right?

10:00:27 16 Know what else I can tell you, hey, you know,
10:00:31 17 we just picked your kid off the railroad track, come
10:00:35 18 pick him up, you know. I see -- I got a lot of friends
10:00:39 19 that are Crows and I know that they end up having death
10:00:44 20 on that road.

10:00:45 21 So either way, are you guys going to be able
10:00:48 22 to answer those questions, you know? You got our back,
10:00:52 23 because if you come on here like that way, there's going
10:00:56 24 to be a lot more and it goes on the negative side, you
10:01:00 25 know. Nobody else ain't going to say it, but hey, when₁₀₃

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10:01:04 1 we get angry, we get angry, and I thank you for you
10:01:09 2 guys' patience. Thank you.

10:01:14 3 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:01:15 4 comments.

10:01:15 5 Sir?

10:01:54 6 FRED BLACKWOLF: Good evening. My name is
10:02:00 7 Johnny Cash. No. My name is Fred Blackwolf.

10:02:16 8 When I was growing up, I was taught about all
10:02:18 9 the history about my people. And they always talk about
10:02:31 10 the prophet, the prophet we had. Just like Moses, he
10:02:50 11 was given the Ten Commandments. The prophet said, Do
10:03:02 12 not dig that black rock. He must have meant the coal.
10:03:22 13 He said, Don't dig for that black rock. Because if you
10:03:33 14 do, everybody's going to go crazy. In my memory -- in
10:03:48 15 my generation and the older generation, some people
10:03:57 16 still believe in that. So I'm against digging for the
10:04:08 17 coal.

10:04:23 18 What he meant was when you go crazy, when
10:04:32 19 you're crazy, they don't stop right on the
10:04:37 20 [indiscernible]. They stop the mine, and they're
10:04:49 21 killing animals, wildlife, people, destroying the main
10:05:03 22 creatures on earth.

10:05:08 23 God put coal on here for a reason. I don't
10:05:21 24 believe in digging the coal.

10:05:28 25 Thank you.

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10:05:40 1 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:05:40 2 comments.

10:05:41 3 Is there anyone else who would like to make an
10:05:42 4 oral comment this evening?

10:06:00 5 FRANCISCO IGNACIO: Hi. I'm an enrolled
10:06:03 6 tribal member here, and my name is Francisco Ignacio.
10:06:06 7 F-r-a-n-c-i-s-c-o, my last name is I-g-n-a-c-i-o.

10:06:21 8 But I speak for everybody here today that
10:06:24 9 already spoke their comments to you. And it sounds like
10:06:32 10 to this day, present day, our tribe still suffers from
10:06:35 11 past hurts, and I would like to address a simple point
10:06:39 12 across that we do not want or even need a railroad
10:06:42 13 built.

10:06:43 14 This project is -- if this project is
10:06:46 15 approved, it just proves the point that nowadays it's
10:06:50 16 just about good business. But I don't think so. That
10:06:56 17 doesn't sound like a good business to me. And that our
10:07:00 18 voices are not heard or even listened to. The fact is
10:07:05 19 you do not want to listen nor understand how we as a
10:07:08 20 tribe feel about our land. We have a way of life that
10:07:12 21 makes us rich in spirit, not the way of life that makes
10:07:16 22 you rich by the love of money, as simple as that.

10:07:19 23 Thanks.

10:07:27 24 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Is there anyone else that
10:07:28 25 would like to speak and provide an oral comment this

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10:07:30 1 evening?

10:07:41 2 PAULEE SMALL: Hi. My name is Paulee Small,
10:07:42 3 P-a-u-l-e-e, S-m-a-l-l. I am a member -- or my family
10:07:49 4 is the Braided Hair family and the Kills Night family.
10:07:53 5 I am a sixth generation from Chief Little Wolf.

10:07:55 6 And the reason I say that is because we have
10:07:58 7 stories handed down that he was one of the first chiefs
10:08:02 8 and Native Americans to charge a railroad, and he would
10:08:10 9 attack these railroads -- or the train -- as they came.
10:08:13 10 And that's -- I'm sixth. My grandma -- my aunt talked
10:08:19 11 about how there's her -- there was her, their
10:08:23 12 grandfather, she's the third, and we're the fourth, but
10:08:27 13 actually I'm the sixth generation.

10:08:31 14 I sit here again. I was here to testify what
10:08:36 15 the -- or to comment with DEQ. And I was pregnant then,
10:08:41 16 in 2012, and I'm pregnant again, and that's another
10:08:43 17 generation that's going to be against a railroad,
10:08:46 18 because we educate each other. We know our hurts and
10:08:51 19 our pains that we've suffered through all of the
10:08:54 20 historical trauma, and a railroad is only going to make
10:08:58 21 it worse.

10:09:00 22 I know you're here for an Environmental Impact
10:09:02 23 Statement, and I want you to realize that we are a part
10:09:06 24 of the environment. We are so much a part of it, it's
10:09:11 25 just as alive as we are sitting here in front of you

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10:09:14 1 today. So when you write and you consider everything, I
10:09:18 2 want you to consider us and what we said here today.
10:09:22 3 Because it will affect us, and it's not just going to
10:09:25 4 affect the plants and the animals and the water. That
10:09:29 5 means it will affect us and our livelihoods.

10:09:33 6 There are people here on the reservation that
10:09:35 7 live off of the land, that we survive from deer meat and
10:09:40 8 fishing and berries, and we travel through this whole
10:09:44 9 area and we gather those things. I want you to realize
10:09:48 10 that. We are a part of this environment. And that
10:09:52 11 railroad, although it is not coming through Lame Deer,
10:09:56 12 it will directly impact us.

10:09:58 13 There is no way that Ashland has enough
10:10:02 14 resources to provide housing for these workers that will
10:10:05 15 come in to build these -- the railroad itself. They're
10:10:10 16 going to come here. They're going to affect my people.
10:10:14 17 And people have talked about the Bakken and how greatly
10:10:18 18 that has affected people in that area. It has reached
10:10:22 19 to Montana.

10:10:25 20 Ashland is just right over the hill. We will
10:10:28 21 receive major impacts. And it will make everything, all
10:10:34 22 of our struggles today, ten times worse. I struggle --
10:10:39 23 I moved into -- I lived with my uncle for quite a while
10:10:42 24 since I had my first son. And I've always felt safe
10:10:46 25 because there was -- it was a family unit. And now,

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10:10:50 1 currently, I have my own home, and it's scary. It's
10:10:53 2 scary to let my son go out and play when I know that
10:10:57 3 meth and alcohol are very prevalent in our community.

10:11:01 4 And I had a friend -- I attended the
10:11:05 5 University of Montana, and I had a friend from the Three
10:11:09 6 Affiliated Tribes who are doing the oil, and she's
10:11:14 7 starting a nonprofit for kidnapped women, missing
10:11:19 8 children. It's a scary, scary, very scary reality for
10:11:25 9 us that my son could be taken even today.

10:11:31 10 That railroad is not just about the
10:11:34 11 environment. It's about us. It's about our future.
10:11:38 12 It's about my children. It's about the baby I have
10:11:40 13 coming today. I just want you to understand that. I
10:11:51 14 want it to be in your heart and in your mind that when
10:11:54 15 you go through to do the study, it's not just about the
10:12:02 16 plants, and it's not that they're not living things. We
10:12:05 17 are too. We depend on this. We are the environment
10:12:09 18 that you need to consider.

10:12:11 19 Thank you.

10:12:18 20 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:12:19 21 comments.

10:12:21 22 Is there anyone else who would like to provide
10:12:23 23 an oral comment this evening?

10:12:37 24 CLINT McRAE: My name is Clint McRae,
10:12:39 25 C-l-i-n-t, M-c capital R, little A, little E. My family₁₀₈

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10:12:44 1 and I ranch on Rosebud Creek, downriver from Lame Deer.

10:12:50 2 I wasn't going to speak tonight, because this
10:12:51 3 is, I think, something that you need to hear, and I've
10:12:55 4 been at a couple of meetings. But I think there's one
10:12:58 5 thing that's compelling with me, and that is the sense
10:13:00 6 of history that you've heard tonight.

10:13:04 7 The Northern Cheyenne history is very sad.
10:13:06 8 It's tragic. And they have fought with blood to be
10:13:10 9 where they are tonight. I am not a member of the
10:13:13 10 Northern Cheyenne tribe, and I am proud to say I'm a
10:13:16 11 neighbor because they're neighbors of ours.

10:13:18 12 One of the things that was instilled in me at
10:13:21 13 an early age was the importance of history. There are
10:13:26 14 places on our ranch and our neighbors' ranches that we
10:13:32 15 all know about and we don't show anybody because we want
10:13:34 16 to protect them. As a landowner, my ancestors have only
10:13:41 17 been buried here for about four or five generations.
10:13:44 18 The rest have been laid in Scotland. But it is not lost
10:13:48 19 on me, when I see these sites on our place, when I'm
10:13:50 20 horseback, gathering cattle, to know that these are
10:13:54 21 someone else's ancestors. That is not lost on me.

10:14:00 22 So when we were approached by ICF about
10:14:03 23 cultural resources, as a landowner group that we put
10:14:08 24 together, we hired our own attorney, I think they were
10:14:12 25 expecting that we would not let them on our place. And₁₀₉

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10:14:14 1 we did, but we let them on with conditions. And one of
10:14:18 2 those conditions was that there would be monitors from
10:14:22 3 the THPO offices of the Northern Cheyenne, the Arapaho,
10:14:26 4 the Sioux Nations, and also the Crow Nation. We would
10:14:30 5 not let them access without these people when they did
10:14:33 6 come on.

10:14:34 7 One of the reasons why we wanted to do that is
10:14:36 8 we wanted to ensure that what they were looking at --
10:14:38 9 that they knew what they were looking at. I have
10:14:43 10 neighbors that have burial sites on their place. They
10:14:48 11 don't want to show people where they are, but they did
10:14:50 12 show the surveyors where those burial sites were. They
10:14:54 13 were not recorded.

10:14:57 14 I know we know of lithic scatters, we know of
10:15:01 15 buffalo jumps, we know of stone circles, campsites,
10:15:06 16 vision quest sites, and it is my obligation as a
10:15:10 17 landowner, even though I am not a member of this nation,
10:15:13 18 to protect what is there; and we assumed that that would
10:15:17 19 be to -- that would be done and it was not.

10:15:27 20 James Walksalong talked tonight about more
10:15:29 21 time, and the unique thing about the Colstrip
10:15:34 22 alternative is they found all kinds of things. If you
10:15:36 23 look in the document, the line of cultural sites that
10:15:39 24 were found is a solid line of dots. I don't care what
10:15:42 25 alternative you look at, and if the time is going to be

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10:15:45 1 taken, those sites are going to be the same no matter
10:15:47 2 where they are. It needs to have time to know where
10:15:50 3 these sites are and, if nothing else, the cultural
10:15:53 4 surveys need to be done before an alternative is chosen.
10:15:59 5 And 120 days -- 120 days is not too much to ask.

10:16:06 6 I am frustrated with the process, because we
10:16:08 7 trusted an agency and its representatives to do their
10:16:12 8 job, and I do not believe they did it. I think it also
10:16:15 9 needs to be raised that the same company that contracted
10:16:18 10 for the cultural surveys is the same one that is looking
10:16:21 11 at the port in Longview, Washington. So I think there's
10:16:24 12 a little bit of disingenuity out there. That is wrong.
10:16:29 13 That is not right. I think they have a lot more at
10:16:31 14 stake than we know.

10:16:33 15 But I want it on the record to be clear that
10:16:36 16 the landowners in this area want to protect what they
10:16:38 17 have, it needs to be recorded in the right manner, and,
10:16:41 18 by God, we're going to see that it's done.

10:16:44 19 Thank you.

10:16:53 20 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:16:53 21 comments.

10:16:53 22 Is there anyone else that would like to
10:16:55 23 provide an oral comment this evening?

10:17:06 24 MIKE SCOTT: My name's Mike Scott, and I'm
10:17:08 25 here on behalf of the Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign. 111

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10:17:10 1 That's M-i-k-e, S-c-o-t-t.

10:17:13 2 I just want to point out a couple of things
10:17:16 3 very briefly this evening. Over 200 people came here
10:17:20 4 tonight. You're in a community of 2,000 people. That's
10:17:24 5 10 percent of the population. I was just sitting over
10:17:27 6 there thinking that if this train were going through
10:17:29 7 Seattle, let's say, that means 300,000 people would have
10:17:33 8 turned out. I think that would have had an impact. I
10:17:38 9 hope this process that you're going through right now
10:17:41 10 has the same impact.

10:17:42 11 But also, just so everyone else is aware, it
10:17:45 12 is not just the 200 people here that are watching right
10:17:47 13 now. It is millions of members and supporters of our
10:17:51 14 organization and other organizations that have their
10:17:53 15 eyes on southeast Montana, to make sure you do your job
10:17:56 16 and to make sure you make a good decision.

10:17:59 17 Thank you.

10:18:07 18 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Is there anyone else that
10:18:07 19 would like to make an oral comment this evening?

10:18:16 20 KEN SATTLER: I've already spoken, but I can
10:18:17 21 speak again if nobody else wishes to speak who hasn't.

10:18:24 22 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Okay. Sir, you'll be our
10:18:26 23 final speaker this evening.

10:18:28 24 PAULEE SMALL: I just wanted to add a few
10:18:29 25 things.

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10:18:35 1 KENNETH SATLER: It was Kenneth Sattler,
10:18:37 2 S-a-t-t-l-e-r. Excuse me, but I'm going to sit down.
10:18:43 3 You've heard a lot tonight. A lot has been
10:18:46 4 directed at you. Thank you for taking that task on. I
10:18:50 5 know it's not an easy one. A lot of what you heard
10:18:54 6 tonight didn't pertain to what this meeting was about.
10:18:57 7 This meeting was about the railroad. It wasn't about
10:18:59 8 the mine.

10:19:02 9 But the comments you heard, the emotion you
10:19:04 10 heard, I also know, doesn't relate to the environment as
10:19:10 11 you have to look at it. But I hope you hear what was
10:19:14 12 said, because that's the effect this railroad will have
10:19:19 13 on this community.

10:19:21 14 The railroad doesn't cross the Northern
10:19:23 15 Cheyenne reservation. It's on the other side of the
10:19:26 16 river, but across, as I said earlier, what used to be
10:19:33 17 part of the reservation and, as you heard, where there
10:19:35 18 are sacred sites.

10:19:39 19 When I looked back further at what I
10:19:42 20 discussed, the extensions going all the way to Miles
10:19:45 21 City have twelve crossings of water, not the eight that
10:19:53 22 I originally counted. That's just the Colstrip. What
10:19:57 23 is the impact over all of those tributaries? It's not
10:20:02 24 minimal. Any one event can cause a catastrophe, can
10:20:09 25 cause an environmental hazard, crossing, I believe, that

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10:20:13 1 many bodies of water with that many bridges and trusses
10:20:15 2 and culverts.

10:20:20 3 The amount of work that has to be done to
10:20:22 4 repair railroad ties. You see it all the time along the
10:20:26 5 interstate how often, the railroad ties, which are
10:20:31 6 coated in creosote. What effect does that have as a
10:20:36 7 process that's being done on the water? It's not a
10:20:39 8 minimal effect.

10:20:41 9 I mentioned ripple effect. And what you're
10:20:46 10 hearing is how that railroad will have a ripple effect
10:20:50 11 on this community, the friends we've seen, and some of
10:20:54 12 us have known the Cheyenne have, but come forth. The
10:20:58 13 ripple effects are tremendous.

10:21:05 14 The increased number of trains alone and the
10:21:09 15 amount of coal ash, coal dust that will be put into the
10:21:13 16 air has an impact. The amount of trains that will be
10:21:17 17 increased that when they get to their junction points
10:21:21 18 will follow along the Yellowstone River, going whichever
10:21:25 19 direction, east to supply the Midwest with coal or west
10:21:28 20 to supply China with coal, again, will add coal dust
10:21:34 21 into the water and the air of those thousands of miles
10:21:37 22 of rail. Does the impact statement look at that?
10:21:42 23 Reconsider it.

10:21:46 24 Are the people from the railroad still here?
10:21:50 25 The emotion you've heard, the comments you've heard are ¹¹⁴

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10:21:54 1 something you need to take into consideration. And the
10:21:58 2 best thing to do would be to drop your proposal, abandon
10:22:06 3 it, because you have a ripple effect that is huge.

10:22:16 4 The railroad will pass four schools that serve
10:22:18 5 our community. On a windy day, what will happen on the
10:22:24 6 playgrounds or in the classrooms when all that coal ash,
10:22:27 7 coal dust -- or not ash, but dust is flying? How will
10:22:30 8 that affect our kids on the playground?

10:22:34 9 That train will go through the community of
10:22:36 10 Ashland or near the community of Ashland. As a teacher,
10:22:40 11 is it going to wake my students up at night or early in
10:22:43 12 the morning who already have difficult times and make it
10:22:48 13 even harder for them to come to school or stay awake at
10:22:50 14 school and be attentive, to get an education they need
10:22:53 15 and deserve? The trains will disrupt that.

10:23:01 16 You bring in the railroad and the workers that
10:23:05 17 will be needed. You'll create a boom-or-bust situation
10:23:10 18 in Ashland. Ashland is busting right now. Places have
10:23:16 19 closed down. I've said to myself and my family, if I
10:23:19 20 had the money, I'd buy some of these abandoned
10:23:22 21 properties, because I'm going to make some money if this
10:23:24 22 comes through. But when it's done, it will go bust
10:23:29 23 again. If the mine doesn't come through, be going bust.
10:23:37 24 There will be a ripple effect that the railroad will
10:23:40 25 bring if the railroad goes through and the mine ever

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10:23:45 1 goes through.

10:23:48 2 We'll have conflict. We'll have behavior and
10:23:53 3 things that destroy this community that has been
10:23:58 4 affected so terribly by drugs and alcohol. The railroad
10:24:02 5 will have an effect on that. We've seen the ripple
10:24:06 6 effects that have happened in the Bakkens. That could
10:24:09 7 happen here. It will happen here if the railroad goes
10:24:12 8 through and the rest of the proposals follow suit.

10:24:21 9 Somebody mentioned about some of the
10:24:22 10 historical events we go on. I've been part of the Fort
10:24:25 11 Robinson historical run of 400 miles. If this railroad
10:24:32 12 goes through, we'll literally physically have to cross
10:24:36 13 the railroad tracks when we do that run, which is just
10:24:41 14 before they cross back into their homeland of the
10:24:45 15 reservation. That's a slap. That's a slap in the face.

10:24:52 16 This community, as you've heard in all the
10:24:55 17 emotion that has come forth, has suffered tremendous
10:24:58 18 historical trauma, through their history of trying to
10:25:02 19 save their culture, their way of life. Many people
10:25:07 20 still live it. You've heard it, the effect of the
10:25:10 21 historical trauma on them. The effect of this railroad,
10:25:14 22 be it maybe not environmental, will have continued
10:25:19 23 trauma effect on the people of the Northern Cheyenne
10:25:22 24 reservation. If there is a way to tie that into
10:25:28 25 environmental stats, let us know.

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10:25:32 1 It's unfortunate -- I mean no disrespect to
10:25:35 2 anybody here or anybody that's spoken -- but I know
10:25:39 3 people have gone off track. I know and appreciate you
10:25:42 4 allowing people to speak much more than the three-minute
10:25:45 5 limit. Much of what has been said tonight should have
10:25:49 6 been said back at the public scoping meetings.

10:25:55 7 But with everything you've heard here tonight,
10:25:58 8 the emotion, as much fact as we can provide, and bottom
10:26:05 9 line, not much was stated from the report, not many
10:26:09 10 facts were quoted to tie our comments to, not many
10:26:14 11 scientific or environmentally relative facts were given
10:26:18 12 that may have any weight in your decision, but I hope
10:26:23 13 with what you've heard and what's been asked, especially
10:26:27 14 with the absence, as we understand it, of some of the
10:26:32 15 agencies who should be involved to help represent the
10:26:35 16 Cheyenne, like the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the
10:26:38 17 Secretary of the Interior, those involved in the Indian
10:26:42 18 acts, the preservation acts, the relocation acts,
10:26:46 19 they're not part of the cooperating agencies.

10:26:53 20 Unfortunately, an EIS means environment,
10:26:54 21 agriculture, land management. But if you allow, as an
10:27:03 22 alternative or another process to this, if you allow the
10:27:06 23 extension of 120 days, what's been said here, what needs
10:27:13 24 to be done or asked of can be put into facts that can be
10:27:18 25 tied to how the environment will be impacted.

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10:27:21 1 Hopefully there will be enough said here and
10:27:24 2 enough you can put into your statement and words that
10:27:29 3 the railroad will drop its proposal or you have enough
10:27:34 4 to tie to the environment, and emotions and culture are
10:27:40 5 tied to our environment, that you give the extension
10:27:46 6 and/or then give the proposal to not approve the plan.

10:27:53 7 There's been a silent partner that I don't
10:27:55 8 know if attended the meetings. They've been good
10:27:58 9 neighbors, as I know, to many of us here and in this
10:28:01 10 community, is our Amish community. I don't know if
10:28:05 11 their culture allows them to speak in a forum like this,
10:28:10 12 if they have spoken. But you're affecting two major
10:28:15 13 cultures with this railroad, and it will have an impact.

10:28:22 14 So again I thank you for being here. I thank
10:28:27 15 you for listening to us. I thank my community for
10:28:31 16 allowing me to be here. I hope I have not offended
10:28:34 17 anybody. And I hope somebody, as much as I can say and
10:28:38 18 what I learned being here with the Cheyenne, that
10:28:43 19 somebody will reach out to you who have been here and
10:28:46 20 have been the brunt of these comments, that before you
10:28:48 21 leave, an offering can be made to smudging. We mean no
10:28:55 22 harm, no bad feelings. These are emotions you've heard
10:29:01 23 and dealt with.

10:29:02 24 And the last thing I want to say is I've
10:29:04 25 learned from my Cheyenne brother, bottom line is with 118

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10:29:09 1 the ripple effects of the railroad and all this over
10:29:13 2 coal, coal is in our Mother Earth to be our filter, to
10:29:20 3 be the purifier of our sacred water, and its greatest
10:29:24 4 effect and use and purpose is to be that, to stay in the
10:29:29 5 ground as our natural filter that the Creator made and
10:29:35 6 not to take it out of the ground and take that away from
10:29:37 7 us and Mother Earth.

10:29:40 8 Thank you.

10:29:49 9 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:29:50 10 comments.

10:29:58 11 PAULEE SMALL: I just wanted to add to my
10:30:00 12 earlier comment about us being a part of the
10:30:03 13 environment.

10:30:05 14 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Can you state your name
10:30:06 15 again?

10:30:06 16 THE WITNESS: Paulee Small, P-a-u-l-e-e,
10:30:08 17 S-m-a-l-l.

10:30:10 18 I know, I have to be honest, I didn't read the
10:30:13 19 Draft EIS, but I was told about it, and I feel like,
10:30:18 20 well, a sensitive viewer. I feel like, you know, I'm a
10:30:25 21 part of the environment, more than being a sensitive
10:30:29 22 viewer. It makes me wonder, what is your perspective of
10:30:36 23 us as human beings? Are we not an organic, biological
10:30:40 24 being? Because that's what we are. We are dependent on
10:30:45 25 this land. And you are too. Everybody in this entire 119

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10:30:48 1 room, everybody in the entire world is dependent on the
10:30:51 2 earth. Why are we not considered in your statement as
10:30:57 3 being a part of the environment?

10:31:00 4 Because as far as I know, I'm a part of this
10:31:03 5 world. I'm a part of this environment. And as far as I
10:31:06 6 remember from in high school and the few college science
10:31:11 7 classes I've taken, I'm a part of the ecosystem. Just
10:31:16 8 because we may be at the top of the food chain doesn't
10:31:18 9 mean that we're not a part of the environment.

10:31:22 10 So please consider that when you do your EIS,
10:31:26 11 that we are more than sensitive viewers. We are organic
10:31:31 12 beings to this earth to be considered.

10:31:35 13 Thank you.

10:31:43 14 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:31:43 15 comments.

10:31:56 16 JESSIE IGNACIO: Can I say one last thing? I
10:31:58 17 promise I'll be quick. My name is Jessie Ignacio,
10:32:01 18 I-g-n-a-c-i-o.

10:32:04 19 All I want to say to all of you is that I want
10:32:11 20 you to take what you've heard tonight, take it home with
10:32:14 21 you, let it relish in your mind, because I want to
10:32:18 22 know -- as I'm sitting here today with these people, I
10:32:23 23 want to know if you'll act on it. I want to know if you
10:32:28 24 really heard us.

10:32:30 25 Drop this proposal. Throw it out. And if you

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10:32:36 1 do that, you'll have proven to all of us here that
10:32:41 2 you've actually listened to us. And if you don't,
10:32:43 3 there's nothing further for any of us to say to you. It
10:32:47 4 will just be another broken treaty.

10:32:49 5 Thank you.

10:32:57 6 JENNIFER PIGGOTT: Thank you for your
10:32:57 7 comments. I will now turn it over to Ken for a few
10:33:01 8 closing comments.

10:33:06 9 KEN BLODGETT: Can everybody hear me? I would
10:33:08 10 just like to thank everybody for coming tonight. We do
10:33:12 11 greatly appreciate your input and your participation in
10:33:18 12 the environmental review process. You can continue
10:33:22 13 providing comments through August 24th at the board --
10:33:26 14 at the project Web site, tonguerivereis.com, or by
10:33:33 15 providing them in writing to the board at our
10:33:34 16 Washington, D.C., address.

10:33:37 17 So with that, that concludes this meeting. We
10:33:40 18 have two meetings tomorrow in Forsyth, one at 2:00 and
10:33:44 19 one at 6:00. Thank you all.

10:33:47 20 (Whereupon, the proceeding
10:33:47 21 concluded at 10:33 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF MONTANA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF)

I, Emily K. Niles, Certified Court Reporter,
do hereby certify:

That I reported in shorthand (Stenotype) the
proceedings had in the above-entitled matter at the
place and date indicated.

That I thereafter transcribed my said
shorthand notes into typewriting, and that the
typewritten transcript is a complete, true and accurate
transcription of my said shorthand notes to the best of
my skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
office in the County of Gallatin, State of Montana, this
day of , 2015.

EMILY K. NILES, CCR #2794
Notary Public in the State of Montana
Residing in Bozeman, Montana
My Commission expires: January 16, 2019

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