

PUBLIC MEETING FOR  
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

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HELD BY: : **REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT**  
MEETING DATE:  
: October 26, 2005  
MEETING TIME: 2:00 p.m.

Bureau of Land Management :  
U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Forest Service

MODERATOR:  
Scott Powers, BLM

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1 restate your name and who you're representing. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. FISHER: He's right, I'm Rand Fisher,  
4 Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of  
14:19:52 5 Water Quality. And several things that we're concerned  
6 with pipelines is that there may be a great deal of  
7 disturbance to the natural environment and we'd like to  
8 minimize the disruption of the negative impacts on the  
9 environment for putting in roadways and pipelines and  
14:20:07 10 well pads, and from the salt loading that may occur from  
11 hydrocarbon development in these transportation  
12 corridors as well.

13 Several things that we'd like to consider  
14 and we're concerned about. The overall thing is that  
14:20:23 15 we'd like these to minimize the hydrologic destruction.  
16 Minimize the hydrologic modifications so that things are  
17 not changed. We want to reduce runoff, we want to  
18 reduce erosion, we want to reduce pollutant loading.

19 And particularly, the way that this can  
14:20:39 20 happen is, as with any involvement, whether it's roads  
21 or well pads or any other things that are going on, we  
22 want to minimize the scraping of the land and  
23 disturbance, the removal of vegetation, because that is  
24 problematic. You get more erosion, you get more  
14:20:54 25 pollutant loading from that.

1           We'd also like to minimize the soil  
2           compaction because with that you get more runoff which  
3           results in flashier streams which causes more erosion in  
4           the stream itself. We'd like to minimize the vegetative  
14:21:09 5           removal, minimize the clearing of the land as much as  
6           possible so that there's more water absorbing into the  
7           ground so we have a more natural vegetative cycle or  
8           hydrologic cycle.

9           We'd encourage in developing rules and  
14:21:19 10          guidelines for this for the offices to encourage or  
11          require that those who put in the pipelines review and  
12          adopt statements or low impact development, which are  
13          generally designed for urban development, but the base  
14          and fundamental concept in low impact development is to  
14:21:38 15          minimize the hydrologic disruption such that rainfall  
16          soaks into the ground as close to where the raindrop  
17          hits as possible. So we have less flashiness, less ups  
18          and downs in our stream flow, less erosion, less  
19          pollutant loading.

14:21:50 20          Several things that I would recommend or  
21          advise or hope that might be adopted in that, one of the  
22          primary things is one that the Price BLM office already  
23          has adopted and is using on their district, and that is  
24          the hydrologic modification standards for roads which  
14:22:09 25          are from the Price sub-BLM office. And I would strongly

1 recommend, advise, and hope that those would be adopted  
2 and implement throughout the whole multiple states that  
3 these corridors go through, because these do reduce the  
4 erosion from roads, they reduce the salt loading that  
14:22:23 5 comes from the roads that are put in.

6           And it's also been the experience of people  
7 in the Price office that the companies that put these  
8 roads in, while they cost a little bit more to put in,  
9 they very shortly find they like them much more because  
14:22:34 10 they can get into their site even in snowy or wet  
11 weather, and it actually saves them money in the long  
12 run, which makes it much more useful, while reducing the  
13 pollutant loading and runoff and erosion that occurs  
14 there. So I strongly advise and hope that these Price  
14:22:51 15 field office hydrological modifications on roads would  
16 be adopted throughout the whole interstate process  
17 that's going on there.

18           In our office, we've developed some other  
19 guidelines and recommendations we hope will be  
14:23:05 20 considered. We'll submit these electronically later on,  
21 but we would propose some requirements for the  
22 pipelines, hydrocarbon pipelines, to be put in. I've  
23 reviewed some pipelines that were put in, particularly  
24 in the Price office and Nine Mile Canyon area, and  
14:23:23 25 observed multiple problems with those pipelines because

1 there's been extensive disturbance and removal of  
2 vegetation. The field that's been put back on has not  
3 been put properly, and it's been soft soiled with no  
4 vegetative cover on steep slopes and there's been  
5 extensive erosion.

6 Some very serious problems have occurred  
7 where they put the pipelines across and underneath  
8 streams. And in some cases, the whole cover had some  
9 off and the pipeline has floated up and damaged a great  
10 deal of the environment with a whole lot of pollutant  
11 loading and sediment loading in there, and had the  
12 threat of possibly damaging or breaking the pipeline.  
13 So we'd recommend you make some specific requirements,  
14 particularly regarding to stream crossing, that those be  
15 done in a very careful and precise manner so that we  
16 have long term safety and lower costs on the long term,  
17 so they don't have to go and re-put those pipelines in  
18 after there's been erosion and damage going on there.

19 We'd like as a standard for pipelines and  
20 for other things that go in and for the roads that go  
21 in -- basically, the basic standard should be that the  
22 construction put in such that any erosion from that does  
23 not exceed the tolerable level that is established by  
24 the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Resource  
25 Conservation Service. That is called a T-level. An

1 erosion should not exceed T.

2 Now that varies with the slope and the type  
3 of soil that's on there, and any local county office of  
4 the NRCS can tell you what T should be for a particular  
14:24:45 5 soil and type. And we think that the roads and the well  
6 pads and any construction or modification that goes on  
7 should be designed, and as quickly as possible,  
8 management measures implemented to reduce that erosion  
9 so that it does not exceed the tolerable rates, so we  
14:25:03 10 don't get gullies, so we don't get pollutant loading in  
11 the streams.

12 And there's many ways we can do that,  
13 primarily, vegetative. By putting vegetation in the  
14 ground, you stop that erosion, but there's also  
14:25:11 15 structural measures, particularly on slopes or in areas  
16 where you don't have vegetation growing, there's  
17 structural measures the can occur so that we don't have  
18 that erosion exceeding T.

19 So those are the basic things that our  
14:25:21 20 office would like to propose, is that we adopt the road  
21 standards, that we will consider the hydrocarbon  
22 pipeline standards such -- and the road standards such  
23 that we do not exceed the tolerable erosion rates that  
24 are standard by USDA and RCS.

14:25:38 25 MR. POWERS: Thank you, Mr. Fisher. I

1 neglected to say a couple of important points, so I'll  
2 introduce those now. We're going to have a summary  
3 scoping report available to the public in January of all  
4 the input received here during the 60-day comment  
14:25:56 5 period. And the website is active right now and it is  
6 the best source of information and it will be the best  
7 source of information on an ongoing basis. So we'd  
8 encourage you to take a look at that. UT02

9 So, Dell Draper with Williams.

14:26:16 10 MR. DRAPER: Dell Draper with Williams  
11 Companies. I manage the companies' affairs in the  
12 western United States. Williams is a natural gas  
13 company. We produce, gather and process, and transport  
14 natural gas. We own the northwest pipeline,  
14:26:40 15 transportation pipeline, which runs from Northern New  
16 Mexico up to the base of the Rockies and takes it up to  
17 the markets in the Pacific Northwest. We also have  
18 seven thousand miles of gathering lines in the states of  
19 Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. None in the Price  
14:27:02 20 area, for the benefit of the former speaker.

21 Williams is a smaller company to date than  
22 it was five years ago. Five years ago we had additional  
23 pipelines that totaled 65,000 miles and we also had a  
24 26,000 mile fiberoptic network. The fiberoptic network  
14:27:20 25 was a bad bet and caused us to sell a lot of our assets,