

1 (5:05 P.M.)

2 WELCOME TO SCOPING MEETING

3

4 MS. RUSSELL: Good evening. My name is  
5 Ellen Russell. I'm with the United States Department  
6 of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy  
7 Reliability, and the reason we're here in Jacumba today  
8 is to begin the environmental process associated with  
9 Sempra Generation's application for a presidential  
10 permit to build a transmission line that crosses the  
11 U.S. border with Mexico.

12 It begins at a wind farm that they are  
13 proposing to build -- I don't think "wind farm" is the  
14 right term anymore -- but it's a wind-generated  
15 facility inside Mexico and a short transmission line  
16 into the United States, ending at a proposed substation  
17 to be built near -- here near Jacumba, called the "East  
18 County Substation."

19 Before any facility can be built across the  
20 border, Sempra Generation must obtain from the  
21 Department of Energy what is called a "presidential  
22 permit," and the presidential permit authorizes a  
23 company to construct, operate, maintain, connect  
24 electricity transmission facilities across the  
25 international boundary.

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1 And the Department of Energy has jurisdiction

2 over electricity transmission lines, but a presidential  
3 permit is required for anything that crosses the  
4 border. The United States Department of State issues  
5 presidential permits for oil pipelines and water  
6 pipelines. The Federal Communications Commission  
7 issues presidential permits for communication lines.  
8 The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues  
9 presidential permits for natural gas lines.

10 The purpose of this meeting is to collect  
11 your comments on the environmental issues that we  
12 should be considering in preparation of our  
13 environmental assessment. It's also appropriate to  
14 tell you that our policy is -- federal policy is to  
15 limit consideration of the impacts of the proposed  
16 project we have on the United States or those that  
17 would accrue to the United States as a result of  
18 activities inside of Mexico.

19 Before I start, I want to introduce some  
20 people who are with me. Brian Mills is at the table.  
21 Brian is from my office, and he is our NEPA -- National  
22 Environmental Policy Act -- NEPA compliance officer.

23 I also have Elliot Nethercutt, who is in the  
24 back of the room, that everyone should have signed in  
25 with. And if you haven't signed in, I'd really

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1 appreciate you signing a card.

2 There are also representatives of Sempra  
3 Generation who are here today: Alberto Abreu and Joan

4 Heredia, and there are a couple of others. But Alberto  
5 is going to give you a brief overview of what their  
6 proposal is.

7 We have a court reporter here today. She's  
8 not here to intimidate any speakers. I want you guys  
9 to let us know what you think needs to be heard, but we  
10 want to make sure that we have a good record of  
11 everyone's comments. So pretend she's not here if  
12 you're not used to speaking in front of a court  
13 reporter.

14 The comment period for this proceeding closes  
15 September 3rd. That is not a hard date. We will be  
16 considering comments that are submitted after that  
17 date. It's just kind of a soft cutoff date to get your  
18 comments and give us something to begin working with as  
19 we prepare this document.

20 The document is going to take many, many,  
21 many months to produce, so if you have a comment that  
22 you would like to give me that you didn't think of when  
23 you were here, my contact information is in the federal  
24 register notice that's in the back of the room. You  
25 can send me an e-mail, and we'll -- we'll consider that

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1 comment.

2 If you comment right before we are ready to  
3 send the document to the printers, then, you know, it's  
4 not likely that we'll consider that comment in this  
5 first go-around, but you're going to get a second bite

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at this apple.

So Dennis Trafecanty is going to be the first speaker, but I'm going to ask Alberto to give you a brief overview of the Sempra project first. Thanks.

MR. ABREU: Thank you.

STAFF PRESENTATION

MR. ABREU: Hello. My name is Alberto Abreu. I'm the project director for Sempra Energy for this particular project. Sempra Generation currently has leaseholds in Mexico of about 314,000 acres, specifically identified for development of wind generation, or at least limit us to wind generation, and the projects will be only wind generation.

The leaseholds are in Northern Baja along the Sierra Juarez mountain range, which is basically this mountain range, the name that they have in Mexico for the mountain ridge, which runs generally northwest to southeast through the town of La Rumorosa in Mexico.

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La Rumorosa, the little town of La Rumorosa, is about 35 miles east of Tecate.

Sempra will construct the wind energy project in phases. The first phase would be the one closest to the Mexican border and is the one that is depicted in the visual simulations that are in the back. That one's just north of the town of La Rumorosa in an area

8                   130517 - Public Meeting  
called "Ejido Jacume." And we have leaseholds there of  
9 approximately 14,000 acres.

10                   Subsequent phases on the existing leases that  
11 we have would be about 50 miles south of the area, and  
12 those will be additional Phases 2, 3 or 4. We don't  
13 know yet how many turbines we can put in that area down  
14 there.

15                   We submitted our permit application for the  
16 presidential permit in December 18 of 2007. We  
17 requested a permit for the construction of a generation  
18 tie line from Mexico to the United States to connect  
19 the wind energy projects to the Southwest Powerlink,  
20 and, therefore, to the U.S. electrical grid.

21                   The application states that we would  
22 interconnect up to 1250 megawatts of wind generation to  
23 the U.S. grid. The exact size of the project itself,  
24 we're not really sure, but our permit application is  
25 for 1200. And the reason we don't know exactly what

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1                   the size of megawatts that we would generate is:  
2 There's a lot of factors that go into it, and some of  
3 them is wind data we don't have yet obtained for long  
4 enough periods in certain areas.

5                   We submitted an amended application on  
6 March 19th, 2008, which provided additional information  
7 on the 230kV interconnection option. I should say that  
8 when we submitted the original application, we had two  
9 options: A 500-kilovolt interconnection line that

10 would connect to the substation or a 230-kilovolt  
11 substation -- I'm sorry -- yeah, 230-kilovolt  
12 transmission generation tie line that would connect to  
13 the substation.

14 We've since done a little bit more  
15 engineering, and we have a little more definition of  
16 the 230 line, and that's the information we provided to  
17 DOE.

18 Today -- yesterday, we submitted a second  
19 amendment to change the name of the project from "Baja  
20 Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC," to "Energia Sierra  
21 Juarez," or "ESJ" for short, ESJ U.S. Transmission,  
22 LLC.

23 The main focus of the presidential permit  
24 application is the construction in the U.S. of a  
25 one-mile transmission line, which will connect the wind

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1 project to a substation that would be built by SDG&E,  
2 and that substation would be permitted by the Public  
3 Utilities Commission as per the proposal of SDG&E, and  
4 that substation would then connect to the Southwest  
5 Powerlink.

6 Our generation tie line consists of  
7 approximately four or five lattice towers over a  
8 permanent right-of-way of about 130-feet wide if it's a  
9 230kV line or 214-feet wide if it's a 500kV line.  
10 Excluding any roads that may be needed, and there  
11 probably will be some roads that we need to construct,

12 we estimate that the permanent construction impacts on  
13 the U.S. side of the transmission line is going to be  
14 approximately a quarter acre, .25 to .3, something in  
15 that range, of permanent impacts.

16 Hopefully, you've seen the setup we have in  
17 the back. We're willing -- happy to answer any  
18 questions outside the -- we're willing to answer any  
19 questions you might have. And the visual simulations  
20 are from three different vantage points: From I-8, one  
21 from Jacumba and one from the valley of the Moon. And  
22 they simulate what the area would look like with the  
23 substation and our wind turbines located there.

24 Thank you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't have any

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1 nighttime pictures to show with the lights?

2 MR. ABREU: No. We don't have -- we haven't  
3 done any, but that's something you can ask DOE to ask  
4 us.

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6 PUBLIC COMMENTS

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8 MS. RUSSELL: Dennis Trafecanty.

9 MR. TRAFECANTY: Where do you want me?

10 MS. RUSSELL: Please.

11 MR. TRAFECANTY: I'm sorry. I didn't get a  
12 chance to hear your presentation, but what is your  
13 name?

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MS. RUSSELL: Ellen Russell.

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MR. TRAFECANTY: Ellen, thanks for having  
this meeting and the meeting earlier today.

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My name is Dennis Trafecanty. I live in  
Santa Ysabel, which is quite a ways a little bit north  
and probably a little bit west of here.

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I -- I just heard a little bit of information  
from the gentleman from Sempra right now. I -- it's  
really conflicted with some of the stuff that I've been  
working on, because what I've been working a lot on is  
what's called the proposed "Sunrise Powerlink." And  
I'm a little bit -- as a public citizen that wants to

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be involved in issues like this, I'm just about out of  
breath.

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And I know that, Ellen, you know and we all  
know that there's a big 150-mile transmission line  
that's being proposed to be taken across through the  
state park, or down in the South County here, all the  
way to San Diego, and going north to L.A. and Orange  
County, which we're fighting.

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And just yesterday, we got in our -- what's  
called a "REIS," recirculated environmental impact  
statement, and scoping comments. And tomorrow is the  
deadline for the Bureau of Land Management's intentions  
to open up all over California what's equivalent to one  
million -- close to one million acres for wind  
generation all over the public lands, which we all own

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16 those public lands. And so I'm preparing for those  
17 comments.

18 I'm coming down here today to find out what's  
19 going on with this presidential permit issue with  
20 La Rumorosa, which is now called something else. You  
21 know, I'm a businessman, and I'm in business right now,  
22 and we rented property for the longest time. And then,  
23 finally, we got to a point where we bought a building.  
24 And then we filled that building with inventory, and we  
25 got bigger and bigger, and then we contemplated maybe

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1 we need to buy another building.

2 well, this whole issue that I'm going to  
3 refer to as "La Rumorosa" today -- because I didn't get  
4 the comment on what it's been renamed today -- but when  
5 you're putting something on 7- or 14- -- I heard  
6 7500 acres, and they were going to build 1250 megawatts  
7 of power, which -- I'm a CPA. I know a little bit  
8 about numbers, and I don't know a lot about turbines.

9 But I've heard you can't put 1250 megawatts  
10 on 7500 acres. So now I find out there's a leasehold  
11 for 314,000 acres. But when you're going to build  
12 something, you generally build it when you need it. We  
13 just bought our second building in our business because  
14 we're just exploding out of the first one. But in this  
15 case, this is going to be years to come before this  
16 thing gets approved, I think.

17 And secondly, if you're only starting right

18 there on 7,000 acres, why don't you run that power back  
19 to the -- the 230kv line that goes to San Diego?  
20 There's already a tie-in to San Diego. You don't need  
21 to build a 500kv line going across through Jacumba here  
22 until you really need it. You don't even need it right  
23 now, because they can't build it. They're still doing  
24 their studies.

25 So the presidential permit thing -- I'm going

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1 to talk as a businessman, because that's what I am.  
2 I'm not an expert on any of this, but I'm sure we'll  
3 get the right experts in here to question this. But  
4 you don't start building something until you really  
5 need it, and you have the -- I liken it to the Sterling  
6 Solar Plant that's out there being touted in the  
7 desert.

8 There's six units -- seven, I think, maybe.  
9 There's one in a foreign country -- that have been  
10 built, and they're still testing it, okay, to see --  
11 but the whole Sunrise Powerlink was promoted as based  
12 upon building 36,000 solar dishes that haven't been  
13 proven yet. And so you don't go approve a 1 or  
14 \$2 billion Sunrise Powerlink if you don't have the  
15 technology down. You got to get that done, too.

16 So I'm really concerned about this. I wrote  
17 some notes to CPUC that I'm going to comment on here.  
18 I think I told you that I think you can't build  
19 1250 megawatts at La Rumorosa. And I'm sure Sempra's

20 going to come back and say, "well, we've got 314,000  
21 acres. Some are 50 miles away."

22 I'd say run it on a -- I mean, this is a  
23 foreign country. You know, if we're going to rely on  
24 foreign countries to generate power here in the U.S.,  
25 you got to realize that there's a lot of question about

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1 that -- how -- whether that power's ever -- always  
2 going to be available to you.

3 So they've got a line. I'm sure we helped  
4 build it. I know a guy in Wisconsin that helped them  
5 build it when they desperately needed it many years  
6 ago. Just run it on the existing power -- forget about  
7 this one-mile line going into the U.S., because you  
8 don't need it right now. Ten years from now, let's  
9 talk about it, if they built all this wind and they've  
10 filled that line up with all the power that it can  
11 take.

12 I have a lot of suspicion only because I've  
13 seen Sempra, SDG&E in action before. 25, 26 years ago,  
14 they built the Southwest Powerlink. And when they  
15 built the Southwest Powerlink, they said, "We need this  
16 for" -- it was geothermal then. Okay. Well, here we  
17 are. 25 years later, we're still waiting. They got  
18 16 megawatts of power, geothermal power going on that  
19 Southwest Powerlink. The rest is fossil fuel coming  
20 from the Far East.

21 I don't want -- I mean, you sort of get

22 burned a little bit with comments when you know past  
23 history doesn't show it. And I'm not going to get into  
24 the early 2000 debacle with Enron and other companies,  
25 but I know that Sempra, SDG&E gets slapped for

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1 significant fines for falsely raising prices and rates.

2 I mean, the local market in Santa Ysabel shut  
3 their lights down to a couple of lights because their  
4 prices were -- energy doubled. And I know Sempra and  
5 SDG&E was proven by the CPUC that they misled us,  
6 running power out of state and running it back in to  
7 higher prices.

8 Now, over here at La Rumorosa, the best I can  
9 tell -- and I'm a businessman, and I'm relying on  
10 people like Bill Powers and Michael Shames and a lot of  
11 people who are very knowledgeable in the industry of  
12 power engineering, generation rates, et cetera. We  
13 know it's either Mexico or it's Sempra or it's SDG&E or  
14 someone is running an LNG line right through  
15 La Rumorosa. I think you can see the pipes sticking up  
16 out of the ground over there. Okay. That gives me a  
17 little suspicion.

18 No. 2, I hear there's going to be, rather, a  
19 waterline under construction over there. Of course,  
20 it's a foreign country. You know, I can't prove it,  
21 but I think we can find this out. Water, LNG, you  
22 know, that Baja Plant they got, bringing stuff from  
23 Thailand, Russia, wherever it's coming from, over into

24 Baja, running through these -- is this really wind  
25 generation? Is it really? Think of the people we're

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1 dealing with. Is it really wind generation?

2 I think this could be another bait and  
3 switch, just like in Mexicali. Those poor people in  
4 El Centro and Brawley and Westmorland are suffering  
5 from the worst asthma than I think there is anywhere  
6 else in California, maybe the U.S. And if you -- if  
7 they're really intending to put a fossil fuel plant, it  
8 seems like they've got all the tools to get it built.

9 And so is this another smokescreen to tell us  
10 all citizens here that we're going to have all this  
11 wind power? "They can't fight us because this is  
12 renewables, so the public can't fight us."

13 Well, we're going to fight it, and we're  
14 going to fight it the best we can. And I really think  
15 that SDG&E and Sempra -- Sempra in this case, because  
16 it's on the other side of the border -- I think that  
17 they shouldn't be -- we shouldn't permit them, unless  
18 they've assured us that this is renewable energy that's  
19 coming from Mexico, because I think they have other  
20 plans that you won't see in writing yet. Someday in  
21 the future, you will.

22 MS. RUSSELL: Mr. Trafecanty, can you either  
23 summarize --

24 MR. TRAFECANTY: Yeah, I'll summarize.

25 MS. RUSSELL: -- or hold the rest of your

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1 comments for later, please.

2 MR. TRAFECANTY: Thank you.

3 I told you about the transmission line. I  
4 want to talk about environmental concerns, and then  
5 I'll go away. Okay?

6 MS. RUSSELL: No, we only have two hours. I  
7 just wanted to make sure everyone had an opportunity.

8 MR. TRAFECANTY: Well, you don't have too  
9 many cards, but, Ellen, I don't want to speak that much  
10 anymore anyway.

11 I know that there's something called the  
12 "Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative."  
13 I know it's been signed up by the U.S. Bureau of Land  
14 Management, California State Parks and organizations in  
15 Mexico. They're all involved in this, and the purpose  
16 of which is to protect the wildlife and promote in --  
17 the improvement of the population of endangered  
18 species.

19 I also heard about the California condor  
20 introduction in Mexico and the fact that some of  
21 this -- new lines could cause a great impact to the --  
22 our hopes that we could increase the population of that  
23 endangered species.

24 In my opinion, the impact on the Bighorn  
25 Sheep and the California condor, I mean, it's not --

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1       it's unmitigable. You can't -- I mean, we're trying to  
2       create a corridor between the U.S. and Mexico. Mexico  
3       agrees, U.S. agrees to protect these species to promote  
4       the growth of this, and I don't think that you can do a  
5       presidential approval of something like this with the  
6       critical concerns on the environment, and especially  
7       with the wildlife. And I think it requires a -- a  
8       formal EIR, EIS in order to -- in order to evaluate it  
9       thoroughly.

10               And finally, what about the fires? It's all  
11       over the place, and it's going to happen here. And  
12       those transmission lines, they caused us to lose many  
13       of our properties in Santa Ysabel and Ramona, and it's  
14       been proven to be caused by transmission lines. Not  
15       quite as big as the ones they're trying to put in, but  
16       you know every large transmission line requires feeder  
17       lines, and those are the ones that cause more of the  
18       fires. And some of them are caused by the big  
19       transmission lines.

20               So, in summary, I think you can't just  
21       permit -- give a presidential approval of a line, even  
22       if it's only one mile, because there's so many massive  
23       things behind all of this that we don't know about that  
24       we need to investigate. Thank you very much.

25               MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. You're not  
2 going to do questions and answers here? You're only  
3 doing presentation from the public?

4 MS. RUSSELL: If we have time, I understand  
5 that Sempra would be willing to entertain questions  
6 about their project. If you have questions about the  
7 environmental process, certainly, as well.

8 Ms. Tisdale.

9 MS. TISDALE: I thought I was one of the last  
10 ones to sign up --

11 MS. RUSSELL: Okay. It was on the top of --  
12 you can duke it out with Mr. Powers. How's that?

13 MS. TISDALE: Donna Tisdale, Boulevard  
14 Planning Group and also a citizen activist, and I'm  
15 also -- I didn't write it down, but I'm president of a  
16 group called "Backcountry Against Dumps."

17 I spoke earlier. I'm not going to repeat all  
18 that, but I did want to officially, on the record, ask  
19 for a copy of the transcripts of these -- this scoping  
20 hearing. I would very much appreciate that.

21 And I was going to show the maps for the gas  
22 pipelines, but I've left them sitting over there. And  
23 I do have photos of the waterline going in. I don't  
24 have copies, but I would be glad to show them to  
25 anybody that's interested.

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1 And I also wanted to mention the visual  
2 resources. I didn't mention them before, but they

3 made -- the turbines are so huge, over 400 feet, that I  
4 believe they would be visible from much of Boulevard,  
5 around the Tecate side. And the higher elevation  
6 areas, we have geographically extensive use.

7 You get all the way down into Baja and all  
8 the way up over to the Cambridge area and off down into  
9 Borrego. So these are also going to be daylight --  
10 daytime strobe lights, blinking night lights. And  
11 then, also, the substation is going to have lighting as  
12 well.

13 So the other thing I didn't bring up was  
14 turbine fires. They are an ignition source themselves.  
15 They malfunction, and all you got to do is Google  
16 "turbine fires," and you'll be kind of surprised as to  
17 what you'll see.

18 So if anybody has any questions, they can  
19 talk to me afterwards, and I'll tell you what I know.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

22 Mr. Powers.

23 MR. POWERS: Bill Powers for the Power Plant  
24 Working Group and Powers Engineering, San Diego. And  
25 this is a background of our group: I was involved in

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1 the -- the Mexicali export plant transmission line  
2 permitting, and in that particular case, we got  
3 involved in that in 2002. And at the time, the  
4 applicant, Sempra, already had a contract with the

5 state to provide power.

6 There was no question that the plants were  
7 going to be built there, would be providing -- at least  
8 the Sempra Plant would be providing power in that  
9 contract. In this case, we have a -- a bold number,  
10 1200 megawatts of wind power. We have no contracts.

11 The SCE contract, they withdrew that a few  
12 weeks ago at the PUC. And I think what Dennis brought  
13 up is a -- the overarching concern here is Sunrise  
14 Powerlink, that in Sempra's application, what they've  
15 said is: "We have 50 megawatts of slack capacity on  
16 the SWPL." If we put this transmission line in to get  
17 this wind, we're going to have to bump that other power  
18 into another line, and that line will be the Sunrise  
19 Powerlink.

20 Given that the applicant has linked them so  
21 closely, that this one mile of 500kv line in the U.S.  
22 will trigger the need to build that other transmission  
23 line, it does seem, to me, that the DOE is going to  
24 have to look at that indirect impact. If -- if one  
25 begets the other, based on what the applicant's telling

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1 you, that would be necessary.

2 And the CFE has estimated that there's  
3 approximately 800 megawatts of slack capacity on their  
4 two 230kv lines, which sit under and around the  
5 proposed wind development. And the -- I mean, in the  
6 California Energy Markets article that I read about

7 this, the -- the CFE pointed out the obvious: If  
8 Sempra locates the wind turbines here and there is no  
9 transmission link into SWPL, they will wheel the power  
10 on CFE lines. Correct.

11 However, this is not peaking power that you  
12 need at -- under a reliability-must-run contract or  
13 some other procedure that says, "We have to have this  
14 power 24/7 available." It's wind power. It comes and  
15 it goes.

16 And so the -- we had this debate with Sempra  
17 and SDG&E before, about you've got two 230kV lines in  
18 Mexico that parallel SWPL. I mean, it's within a few  
19 miles. Those could potentially be upgraded to allow  
20 transfer east to west. And the response has been:  
21 "For liability purposes, we cannot enter into an  
22 agreement with -- of that type with the CFE."

23 Well, there may be some merit to that, but  
24 this is also a company that's building an LNG terminal  
25 in Baja, owns a natural gas pipeline network in Baja,

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1 has built a power plant in Baja, radio transmission  
2 line into the U.S. Sempra has the capability to work  
3 with the Mexican government if they choose to. They  
4 just haven't chosen to do it in that case that I was  
5 using as an example.

6 But 800 megawatts slack capacity into two  
7 230kV lines and estimated in the Sunrise Powerlink  
8 proceeding that I am a party in, 300 to 400 megawatts

9 of slack capacity on SWPL. This application says 50.  
10 That's a big difference. I mean, that's up to 350  
11 megawatts.

12 That's without considering the fact that the  
13 DWR contract expires in 2011. Much of the rush to get  
14 that export plant built in Mexicali was you're sitting  
15 on a gold mine. You've got a \$7 billion power contract  
16 that's been signed and delivered, and you need to get  
17 those plants online. We're not in that situation right  
18 now.

19 But, again, that plant -- or that contract  
20 expires in 2011. That means that Sempra is not going  
21 to have the ability to simply dictate that power from  
22 Mexicali or power from SD to Arizona that is tied into  
23 SWPL, flows into SWPL. They have the power now to  
24 basically dictate which plants provide power.

25 And so the DOE doesn't know and I don't know

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1 how much slack capacity is going to be on the SWPL when  
2 that contract ends, because renewable power is first in  
3 line. It has, essentially, no variable cost.

4 And so in the normal -- in the normal flow of  
5 events, what the wind turbines -- and Sempra is  
6 proposing in Mexicali -- would do is bounce the export  
7 plants offline, if you've got 1200 megawatts flowing,  
8 you've got other power flowing, or potentially bounce  
9 the Mexican plant off the line. And so DOE doesn't  
10 know that. I don't know that. But it should be

11 evaluated in the document, in my opinion.

12 And I think another thing that's important  
13 here is that the sort of Damocles that's been hanging  
14 over our heads for sometime has been the NIETC process.  
15 The DOE is going to punch it through -- I'm talking  
16 about the Sunrise Powerlink right now -- the DOE is  
17 going to punch it through regardless of what we do here  
18 in California.

19 It doesn't matter if the PUC spends five  
20 years and puts a 50,000-page EIS out, even if it says  
21 as it does now, that the environmentally superior  
22 options are local power. The first two are local, a  
23 combination of fossil and renewable, and in one case,  
24 100 percent renewable. It doesn't matter. The DOE can  
25 step in. Boom. We're going to get SWPL. We're going

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1 to get this.

2 And I think that my experience with you and  
3 your group in the whole lawsuit case was -- is you're  
4 trying to do a good job. And I think that in this  
5 particular case, given how controversial the Sunrise  
6 Powerlink is and how everything revolves around that,  
7 that it would behoove the DOE to do an EIS, put a  
8 little distance between the federal government and  
9 Sempra Energy. I just think that would be good  
10 business to put a stamp of greater validity on this  
11 effort.

12 That's what I've got.

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MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

Do you want to take a guess?

MR. QUINTANAR: Is that Aaron Quintanar?

MS. RUSSELL: Yes, it is. And would you please spell it for the reporter?

MR. QUINTANAR: Aaron Quintanar, A-a-r-o-n, Q-u-i-n-t-a-n-a-r.

Good afternoon. I'm with the Border Power Plant Working Group. Prior to my work with the Border Power Plant, I did extensive work in Baja California on conservation issues, in particular, protecting endangered species and habitats in Baja California, San Ignacio Lagoon, Sea of Cortez.

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And I'm here to urge the Department of Energy to use the highest standards of scrutiny in environmental impacts -- EIS, in this case -- to review the possible negative impacts to critically endangered species in Baja California, including Bighorn Sheep corridors and California condor reintroduction efforts that have been conducted bi-nationally, both by the San Diego -- San Diego Zoo and Mexican counterparts in Sierra Juarez.

Another reason for urging high-standard scrutiny here is that the La Rumorosa project and associated road buildings is going to be required, will cause harmful and immediate secondary impacts. It's been very clear in the case of Baja California.

15 Because once roads are opened, you get unregulated  
16 urban sprawl, which is one of the biggest forms of  
17 secondary impacts that are associated with key  
18 development projects of Baja California.

19 Finally, initial review of the permitting in  
20 Baja California and Mexico indicate that the Mexican  
21 permits for this project may be in question due to  
22 these -- in particular, the Bighorn Sheep and the  
23 California condor.

24 And finally, I would also like to call into  
25 the record the issue of the ejidos that are going to be

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1 affected by this project.

2 MS. RUSSELL: I --

3 MR. QUINTANAR: The ejidos are land  
4 cooperatives. The majority of land is held in Baja  
5 California --

6 MS. RUSSELL: Can you spell that for the  
7 reporter, please?

8 MR. QUINTANAR: Land cooperatives or ejidos  
9 are -- "ejido" is spelled e-j-i-d-o, and the plural is  
10 with an s.

11 An initial review of the contracts and its  
12 permits call into serious question all of these issues,  
13 and that's why I urge DOE to have the highest level of  
14 scrutiny in assessing this project.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you. That's all the  
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17 speakers that have signed cards. Is there anyone else  
18 who would like to make a comment?

19 MR. KREKELBERG: From here?

20 MS. RUSSELL: No, please, so the reporter can  
21 hear you.

22 MR. KREKELBERG: Thank you. My name is Kevin  
23 Krekelberg. I'll spell the last name. It's  
24 K-r-e-k-e-l, b as in "boy," e-r-g. I'm a member of  
25 CUSP, which is Citizens United for Sensible Power. We

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1 are currently trying to discourage the Sunrise  
2 Powerlink in every effort.

3 And I don't want to point fingers at Sempra  
4 or SDG&E or anything like that, but I do want to say  
5 that I don't think you're getting all the information.  
6 I don't think it's being entirely -- they're completely  
7 forthcoming in what they're asking you to do. They're  
8 vague about whether it's going to be a 230 line or 500K  
9 line. They're vague about the distance. There are a  
10 lot -- they're vague about a lot of things.

11 I would just like to ask that you do a  
12 complete environmental impact study before we allow  
13 this proposed one-mile transmission line.

14 That's all I have.

15 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

16 I'd like to -- in the absence of any other  
17 comments, I would like to close the record for about a  
18 half an hour. You guys can look at the simulations,

19 talk with Sempra. And then if you've come up with any  
20 other questions or comments that you would like to  
21 provide, we'll go back on the record before we close it  
22 for the night. Thank you.

23 (Recess.)

24 MS. RUSSELL: Okay. I have two more  
25 speakers, Bill Parsons and Jeffrey McKernan. Do you

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1 guys want to flip for it or -- Bill.

2 MR. PARSONS: Well. First, in the --

3 MS. RUSSELL: For the record, please.

4 MR. PARSONS: Oh, Bill Parsons,

5 P-a-r-s-o-n-s.

6 About environmental issues, the visual  
7 component, I just want to say that the simulations back  
8 there do not represent reality.

9 (Applaud.)

10 MR. PARSONS: You're welcome.

11 They are what they are. But I'm a retired  
12 professional photographer, and I know how to make wind  
13 mills look really small, and I know how to make wind  
14 mills look dominant, and a lot of that has to do with  
15 what you do photographically. You use a normal- or  
16 wide-angle lens, make the landscape big, the wind mills  
17 look small. So don't take those pictures as  
18 representations of reality.

19 The other thing is they're still photos. And  
20 I love still photography, but the fact is that wind

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21 mills move, and our eyes are attracted to things that  
22 move. That's why we can't look away from the  
23 television. They've always got a moving picture going,  
24 and we're hypnotized by it, and this happens on the  
25 landscape also.

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1 If you go out there to look at a beautiful  
2 mountain and there's a wind mill, your eyes are going  
3 to see that circle over and over and over. It won't  
4 stop. And not only does the wind mill turn, but it  
5 casts extremely long shadows early in the morning and  
6 late in the afternoon, which are the best times to  
7 enjoy landscape. And those shadows are like strobe  
8 things.

9 I don't know if any of you have noticed, but  
10 if you drive by on Interstate 8 at certain times of the  
11 year, there is the shadow of the wind mills on the  
12 freeway, and it's like walking -- or driving through an  
13 environment that is full of bars, and your face or your  
14 eyes are -- get a constant shadow flash and then light  
15 flash. It's a really amazing thing.

16 It's not going to hurt you, but it's going to  
17 ruin your viewing experience. It's -- you're not going  
18 to be enjoying the landscape when you're standing or  
19 walking or hiking through the shadows of the wind mill  
20 blades.

21 The second thing I'd like to mention,  
22 Mr. Abreu, didn't you say -- how much land did you say?

23 Like, two acres for this link out here?

24 MR. ABREU: It's one -- for the transmission  
25 line?

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1 MR. PARSONS: Yes.

2 MR. ABREU: It's one mile on the U.S. side  
3 and two miles on the Mexican side at the first point of  
4 connection.

5 MR. PARSONS: Okay. But I thought you also  
6 said something about it had a footprint of only --

7 MR. ABREU: Oh, the disturbed area is about a  
8 quarter -- the permanently disturbed area is about a  
9 quarter acre, .3 acres or thereabouts.

10 MR. PARSONS: Okay. That is a fact, and yet  
11 it's misleading, because you think, "Oh, oh, it's a  
12 quarter acre. That's not much land." But if you're a  
13 mile away, that's what you're going to see.

14 So, really, the disturbed area is all of the  
15 area that affects electromagnetically or visually or  
16 because of the dust on the road. If we really talked  
17 about how much area is being affected, it would  
18 probably be hundreds of acres. And I think that needs  
19 to be taken into consideration.

20 This is about scoping, so it's my concern --  
21 I tried to express it earlier today and did a really  
22 bad job -- that the scope of this operation will not be  
23 large enough. If you have someone who crosses the  
24 border illegally with a backpack full of cocaine and

25 you decide to do a study on that, well, what is the

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1 scope of your study? Are you going to study the  
2 footprints that are left on the ground?

3 This is a cultural phenomenon. The effect of  
4 what will happen once the drugs are distributed in  
5 San Diego and elsewhere, maybe New York, it's a  
6 cultural effect that goes throughout our community,  
7 throughout the county, throughout the state. And this  
8 kind of project, this industrial project, is the same  
9 thing. You can't just look at the footprint that's  
10 going to be left behind, because the effects of it are  
11 pervasive and reach into every part of the society and  
12 the culture.

13 And I want to talk about just one of those  
14 cultural aspects, and that is that here in  
15 San Diego County, we have a plan, a general plan for  
16 the county, and it limits industrialization. It limits  
17 residential growth. It limits the exploitation of  
18 natural resources. And much of the planning and the  
19 proposals that have come from Sempra ignore our county  
20 limitations and ignore the cultural part of  
21 development.

22 Boulevard is right close to here, and I'm not  
23 going to speak for Jacumba because I know people in  
24 Jacumba have their own bias. But most of the people in  
25 Boulevard who will be affected by this transmission

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1 line, other transmission lines by wind mill  
2 development, all of these things, are there primarily  
3 because they enjoy the rural character, the wild west  
4 atmosphere of the country.

5 And to preserve that is one of the goals of  
6 the Boulevard Planning Group and one of the goals of  
7 the county plan, the general plan for San Diego County.  
8 It recognizes rural character and the right to preserve  
9 it. And any industrial development that disregards  
10 that component of our lives is basically unwanted.

11 And the needs of local people and the plans  
12 of the county shouldn't be ignored. They should be  
13 counted as strongly as any other factor and, of course,  
14 in my opinion, stronger than any other. They should  
15 certainly be counted as part of whatever assessment you  
16 make.

17 And I want to second things that Donna  
18 Tisdale has said and Dennis and Aaron and Bill Powers.  
19 And all of them have suggested a full study with a very  
20 wide scope, and I hope you do it. Thank you.

21 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

22 Mr. McKernan.

23 MR. MCKERNAN: Jeffrey McKernan,  
24 M-c-K-e-r-n-a-n.

25 I just wanted to say, looking at the

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1 simulations, that they don't depict at all what the  
2 wind mills -- what the wind turbines will look like. I  
3 live four miles south of the Campo Wind Farm, and  
4 they're prominent on the hillsides. They don't  
5 disappear like those. Those are over 100 -- about  
6 100 feet taller than the Campo Wind Farm, so they're  
7 going to be even more visible with the lights and the  
8 height at all different times of the day.

9 The other thing I wanted to say, the lease  
10 deals with ejidos -- well, who are they? There's so  
11 much Cartel on this side of the border, do they have to  
12 honor their lease? What if they pull out of their  
13 lease, and we get stuck -- we're going to be stuck  
14 paying for this project still, because someone is going  
15 to have to eat the cost. And it's going to be us  
16 eating that cost, just like properties were seized in  
17 Rosarito and Ensenada. They were taken back from  
18 American citizens who have lived there for years.

19 There's nothing stopping the other side of  
20 the border from taking hold of the project and  
21 stopping our electrical transmission or our power from  
22 coming over here. I mean, they can seize the property.  
23 They can take it back and not honor their leases. What  
24 recourse do we have? It's a foreign government. I  
25 mean, look at all that red tape and cost that we would

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1 have to pay for your lawyers to try to get the lease  
2 back also if that ever happened.

3 And the other thing I wanted to say is that I  
4 believe environmental -- a full environmental impact  
5 statement should be done in this project. That's all.

6 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

7 Karen McIntyre.

8 MS. MCINTYRE: M-c-I-n-t-y-r-e.

9 Mr. Parsons -- by the way, I'm Karen  
10 McIntyre. My family has lived up on this mountain for  
11 over 35 years, so I think we've been long-time  
12 residents. And the reason why we had bought out in  
13 Campo is that -- for part of a short story here, we  
14 grew up in the suburbs of Santee. We had our  
15 neighbors. My dad wanted to get out of Santee. So we  
16 moved a little bit further out, up by the Boot Hill  
17 area.

18 They found the one piece of property that had  
19 beautiful Eucalyptus trees on it. They had the plants  
20 for their perfect house, and then all that shopping  
21 center and all those houses started moving in across  
22 from Santana High School. Well, goodbye Santee; hello  
23 Campo.

24 So we've been up here -- my parents purposely  
25 found a piece of property in the middle of nowhere,

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1 three miles up a dirt road so that no one would build  
2 on top of us, and my father found the perfect hill. It

3 looks over Echo Valley, Campo Meadows. We had the most  
4 perfect view shed clear to the Mexican border. That  
5 has been spoiled by Campo Hills.

6 I can feel the pain that these people are  
7 going to have for having to look at wind mills.  
8 Because when you move up here and you move your house  
9 onto a piece of property, you go all over that  
10 property, and you find your perfect little spot, your  
11 little piece of heaven to where you have the perfect  
12 view, and you plot how you're going to put your house  
13 up there and everything.

14 And then, you know, for something like this  
15 to be, you know, put in and destroy it, it's -- it's  
16 not fair. I mean, this is why they make it so people  
17 can't build up on ridge lines anymore: So you do not  
18 destroy the view shed.

19 Second thing I want to bring up is that  
20 Americans are not allowed to own businesses in Mexico.  
21 I have had friends that I went to high school with.  
22 Their parents died. They have a dual citizenship:  
23 Mexican and American. The Mexican government made them  
24 choose. And since they did not choose Mexican, the  
25 Mexicans -- the government took over their businesses,

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1 everything.

2 There's nothing that will protect Sempra from  
3 having this loss to the Mexican government. They're  
4 their own country. They can do whatever they want to

5 do. They don't have to abide by any real contracts.  
6 Nothing.

7 And so, to me, that is a loss of millions and  
8 billions of dollars for a pipe dream that you can  
9 possibly only hold onto for hopefully a year before the  
10 government wants it all for themselves. You know, they  
11 need electricity, too. They don't have the money to  
12 build this, and we're just the suckers to build it for  
13 them so they can take it over. Thank you.

14 MS. RUSSELL: Is there anyone else that would  
15 like to speak?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Drill now.

17 MS. MCKERNAN: I would. Do I need to come up  
18 there?

19 MS. RUSSELL: Sorry.

20 MS. MCKERNAN: I know.

21 Laura MCKernan, M-c-K-e-r-n-a-n, Laura,  
22 L-a-u-r-a. I live in Boulevard, and I was told the  
23 wind -- I'm so for that green energy and everything and  
24 get rid of bottled water and recycle water and do  
25 everything.

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1 And they told me when the wind mills came in  
2 at Campo, that I wouldn't even see them, and that's all  
3 I see out my kitchen window, is blinking lights all  
4 night, watching TV. And all during the day, I see them  
5 and find out they don't even use all their energy they  
6 get.



9 do have up here on this hill that we gave all those --  
10 you know, shopping and necessities and everything close  
11 for us, to have the beauty of nature.

12 And to have that taken away from us when  
13 that's all you have, it's such a shame, and then to  
14 make you feel bad because people think you don't want  
15 green energy then. And the first thing I want to see  
16 when I look that way is a border fence, not wind mills.  
17 I want a border, and then talk wind mills.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. RUSSELL: If that's our last comment, I'm  
20 just going to thank everyone for coming out,  
21 participating in this. I appreciate it. We have some  
22 work to do.

23 Ms. Tisdale.

24 MS. TISDALE: I saw a car pull in, and you  
25 said it was open till 7:00. I thought I saw a car pull

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1 in.

2 MS. RUSSELL: Okay.

3 Elliot, could you check, please.

4 MS. TISDALE: People have a long way to drive  
5 to town from work.

6 MS. RUSSELL: Okay.

7 MS. TISDALE: Maybe they just turned around.

8 MS. RUSSELL: We're going to close the  
9 record. Thank you very much for coming.

10 (The meeting was concluded at 6:29 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
2 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
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4 I, Regina L. Garrison, a Certified Shorthand  
5 Reporter for the State of California, CSR No. 12921, do  
6 hereby certify: That the proceedings were taken before  
7 me at the time and place herein named; that the said  
8 proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and  
9 transcribed through computer-aided transcription, under  
10 my direction; and that the foregoing is a true record  
11 of the testimony elicited at said proceedings to the  
12 best of my ability.

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I do further certify that I am a disinterested person and am in no way interested in the outcome of this action or connected with or related to any of the parties in this action or to their respective counsel.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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