

1 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
2 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT
3 PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A
4 DRAFT AIR EMISSION SOURCE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT TO
5 SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION
6
7
8

9 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010

10 2:00 P.M.

11 Highway Patrol Training Center

12 2025 E. Iron Avenue

13 Salina, Kansas
14
15

16 HEARING OFFICER:

17 Mr. Dan Wells
18 District Environmental Administrator
19 Northwest District Office
20 Bureau of Environmental Field Services
21 2301 East 13th Street
22 Hays, Kansas 67601-2651

23 COURT REPORTER:

24 Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR
25 234 N. Seventh, Suite E
Salina, Kansas 67401

1 MR. WELLS: Good afternoon. I am
2 convening this hearing at 2 o'clock p.m. on
3 Wednesday, August 4th, 2010. This hearing is
4 being held in the Highway Patrol Training Center,
5 2025 East Iron Avenue, Salina, Kansas.

6 My name is Dan Wells. The Secretary of
7 Health and Environment, Roderick Bremby, has
8 appointed me to act as hearing officer and his
9 representative to receive and consider testimony
10 relevant to today's proceedings.

11 The issue under consideration at this
12 hearing is the proposed issuance of an Air
13 Emission Source Construction Permit to Sunflower
14 Electric Power Corporation, which, if issued,
15 would allow construction of one new 895-megawatt
16 coal-fired steam generating unit and associated
17 ancillary equipment at the company's facility
18 located at 2440 Holcomb Lane, Holcomb, Kansas.

19 Public notice regarding today's hearing
20 was given through publication of the notice in the
21 Kansas Register dated July 1st, 2010, and the
22 corresponding public comment period of 45 days
23 which commenced on that date.

24 This hearing will be conducted in two
25 sessions. The first session will run until all

1 participants present have an opportunity to offer
2 verbal and/or written comments, but no later than
3 5 o'clock p.m.

4 The hearing will then go into recess and
5 will reconvene at 6:30 p.m. The second session of
6 the hearing will continue until all verbal and/or
7 written comments have been presented by
8 participants.

9 As you entered this room, you were asked
10 to register your attendance and to indicate on the
11 form whether you desired to give testimony
12 concerning the proposed permit. A registration
13 form can be completed at any time during the
14 hearing. From those forms, the list of
15 participants will be compiled.

16 If you are here as part of a large group
17 in which many of the members will be making the
18 same or similar comments, I encourage you to
19 formulate the comments into one presentation.

20 Following my remarks, a representative of
21 the department's Bureau of Air, Mr. Rick Brunetti,
22 will provide a summary of the draft permit.
23 Following that presentation, those of you who have
24 indicated a desire to present testimony will be
25 called upon to present your comments.

1 This hearing is being recorded for an
2 official record of today's proceedings. Due to
3 the large number of attendees who have indicated a
4 desire to present comments, I will impose the
5 following rules: All presentations must be made
6 at the microphone.

7 You must begin your presentation by
8 stating your name, address, and who you are
9 affiliated with.

10 Each presenter will only be given three
11 minutes to give their presentation. A timer will
12 be used, and at the end of the allotted time, I
13 will ask you to conclude your comments.

14 Any unused time by a presenter will not
15 be given to another presenter.

16 If your name is called and you desire to
17 provide oral comments, you must do so at that
18 time. You will not be allowed to defer your
19 presentation to a later time in the hearing.

20 I will only accept comments that are in
21 regard to the proposed permit. I encourage all
22 speakers to avoid echoing comments previously made
23 during the hearing.

24 Please be courteous and allow other
25 presenters to give their comments without

1 interruption.

2 And finally, anyone who disrupts these
3 proceedings will be required to leave this
4 hearing.

5 At this time, I will call upon
6 Mr. Brunetti to present a summary of the draft
7 permit.

8 Mr. Brunetti.

9 MR. BRUNETTI: Thank you, Dan. I am
10 Rick Brunetti, I'm the director of the Bureau of
11 Air with the Kansas Department of Health and
12 Environment.

13 To begin, last week, it was determined by
14 federal and state officials that the
15 meteorological data Sunflower Electric used were
16 not adjusted for the differences in time zones
17 prior to input into the dispersion model. Model
18 results simulate how the plant will impact ambient
19 air in the surrounding areas. Sunflower has been
20 advised that this portion of the permit
21 application will need to be revised and
22 resubmitted to the department.

23 KDHE is committed to a public process
24 which will include a separate comment period on
25 the modeling data once submitted and reviewed.

1 KDHE will issue an additional public notice
2 subsequent to review of the modeling data, and
3 conduct one public hearing to receive comments on
4 the new modeling data and the draft permit.
5 Details on the second comment period and final
6 hearing will be announced at a later date.

7 During the second public comment process,
8 all aspects of the Sunflower PSD permit will be
9 open for comment.

10 At this time, I will provide an overview
11 of the draft permit for Sunflower Electric Power
12 Corporation, herein after referred to as
13 Sunflower.

14 Sunflower plans to modify a generating
15 facility located in Holcomb with the installation
16 of a supercritical 895-megawatt pulverized coal
17 boiler. The existing coal, lime and ash handling
18 system will add equipment to accommodate
19 additional throughput required by this
20 modification. A new cooling tower, a natural gas
21 fired auxiliary boiler, an emergency generator,
22 and a diesel fire pump will also be added to the
23 facility. The Holcomb 2 boiler will utilize
24 Powder River Basin sub-bituminous coal and low
25 sulfur bituminous coal as the primary fuel and

1 natural gas as a backup fuel.

2 This source is subject to the following
3 Kansas Administrative Regulations: KAR 28-19-300,
4 which deals with construction permits and
5 approvals; KAR 28-19-350, which addresses the
6 prevention of significant deterioration or PSD of
7 the air quality; KAR 28-19-720, which addresses
8 the New Source Performance Standards; and finally,
9 Title IV of the Federal Clean Air Act, often
10 referred to as the acid rain regulations.

11 The potential-to-emit of one or more of
12 the PSD regulated air pollutants from the proposed
13 activity exceeds the significant level. The
14 proposed activity is, therefore, considered to be
15 a major modification of a major stationary source.
16 Therefore, an evaluation of best available control
17 technology, an ambient air quality analysis, and
18 an evaluating of impacts, if any, upon soils,
19 vegetation and visibility were conducted.

20 BACT requirements, or best available
21 control technology, apply to each new or modified
22 affected emissions unit and pollutant emitting
23 activity. Also, individual BACT determinations
24 are performed for each pollutant emitted from the
25 same emission unit.

1 The following BACT has been established
2 for this project: For the PC fire boilers, BACT
3 for nitrogen dioxide is low-NOx burners, and
4 separated over-fire and air equipment, along with
5 selective catalytic reduction.

6 BACT for carbon monoxide is good
7 combustion practices.

8 BACT for sulfur dioxide has been
9 determined to be a dry flue gas desulfurization
10 system and low sulfur coal.

11 BACT for volatile organic compounds is
12 good combustion practices.

13 BACT for particulate matter, particulate
14 10 microns or less, and particulate matter of 2.5
15 microns or less is a fabric filter.

16 BACT for sulfuric acid mist would be dry
17 gas desulfurization system.

18 BACT for the auxiliary boilers for NOx
19 emissions is low NOx burners and for SO2 is
20 combusting only natural -- pipeline natural gas.

21 BACT for other pieces of equipment
22 include the following: A catalytic converter for
23 emergency generators, high efficiency drift
24 eliminators for the cooling tower, bag houses/bin
25 filters and chemical/water suppression for

1 material handling systems.

2 The owner or operator of a proposed
3 source or modification must demonstrate that
4 allowable emissions increases from the proposed
5 source in conjunction with all other applicable
6 emissions increases or reductions would not cause
7 or contribute to the air pollution in violation
8 of, number one, any natural ambient air quality
9 standard, or secondly, any applicable maximum
10 allowable increase over the baseline concentration
11 in any area, oftentimes referred to as the
12 increment.

13 The AERMOD model was used to determine
14 the maximum predicted ground-level concentration
15 for each pollutant and applicable averaging period
16 resulting from various operating loads.

17 This is the air within the permit that
18 will require remodeling due to the problems
19 associated with the meteorological data.

20 Sunflower was required to provide an
21 analysis of the impairment to visibility, as well
22 as impacts on plants, soils, and vegetation that
23 would occur as a result of this project and to
24 what extent the emissions from the proposed
25 modification impacts the general commercial,

1 residential and industrial and other growths.

2 The visibility impairment analysis.

3 Sunflower conducted an analysis of impairment to
4 visibility for the proposed modification using
5 CALPUFF modeling system. Two Class I areas were
6 evaluated, including the Great Sand Dunes in
7 Wichita Mountains, which are both located
8 approximately 400 kilometers from the site.

9 In accordance with KDHE guidance, a
10 visibility analysis was also conducted at Scott
11 Lake, a Class II area located approximately
12 80 kilometers to the north of the plant. A
13 VisSCREEN analysis was performed for Scott Lake
14 and the City of Holcomb. The screening analysis
15 indicated some of the Class I screening criteria
16 were exceeded. No criteria has been established
17 for Class II areas.

18 In regard to vegetation impact, an
19 analysis of the impairment to visibility, soils
20 and vegetation that would occur as a result of the
21 modifications to the source was conducted. It was
22 determined that the proposed facility and the
23 associated increases in nitrogen dioxide, sulfur
24 dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter 10
25 microns or less, particulate matter less than two

1 and a half microns, volatile organic
2 compound/ozone, trace elements, and acid gases are
3 not expected to have significant effects on
4 vegetation.

5 Given the low emission levels and the
6 sandy soils in the vicinity of the project, the
7 project should not significantly impact soils in
8 the area.

9 This modification to the Holcomb facility
10 will stimulate an increase in the local labor
11 force during the construction phase in the Holcomb
12 area, but the increase will be temporary and will
13 not result in permanent or significant commercial
14 and residential growth.

15 Operation of the facility will require 75
16 additional employees over current staffing levels.
17 These new residents are not anticipated to add
18 appreciably to air emissions in the vicinity of
19 the facility.

20 No new local industrial facilities
21 related to Holcomb 2 are anticipated. An increase
22 in commercial activity related to transportation
23 of coal and lime to the facility and removal of
24 by-products materials, for example, bottom ash,
25 would occur; however, any emissions increases

1 would be from mobile sources, and are not part of
2 this analysis.

3 Therefore, Holcomb 2 is not anticipated
4 to have sustainable negative impact to the area
5 based on collateral growth.

6 This concludes my testimony.

7 Dan.

8 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Can everybody
9 in the back hear us okay?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

11 MR. WELLS: Before I begin accepting
12 public comments, the Kansas Department of
13 Agriculture has asked me to give the following
14 statement to answer questions regarding water
15 rights and the proposed electrical plant.

16 Regarding the water supply for the power
17 plant, the project sponsor has acquired the water
18 rights necessary for its supply by purchasing
19 existing irrigation water rights that will be
20 changed to industrial use via regulations of the
21 chief engineer of the Kansas Department of
22 Agriculture's Division of Water Resources. The
23 chief engineer's regulations require that the
24 quantity of water authorized by the water right be
25 significantly reduced when the use is converted

1 from irrigation to industrial. This is to ensure
2 there is no net increase in the impact on the
3 aquifer.

4 With that being said, water rights are
5 not an issue under consideration at today's
6 hearing. If you have questions or comments
7 regarding water rights, you may contact the Kansas
8 Department of Agriculture Division of Water
9 Resources.

10 Secretary Bremby has asked me to
11 recognize any State legislators who are in
12 attendance at today's hearing. If you are a State
13 legislator and would like to be recognized, please
14 stand and state who you are.

15 Thank you.

16 We have now come to the point in the
17 first session of today's hearing where we will
18 receive comments from the public. As stated
19 earlier, each presenter will only be given three
20 minutes to give their testimony. Our timekeeper,
21 who is sitting here in the front row, Jennifer,
22 would you raise her hand, will display signs
23 notifying you of the amount of time you have left
24 in your presentation. At the end of the three
25 minutes, you must conclude your comments. Please

1 feel free to present any comments specifically
2 related to the draft permit that you would like to
3 have considered.

4 I will begin by calling upon those
5 individuals who indicated their desire to present
6 comments on the registration forms. It is the
7 intention of KDHE to provide adequate time for all
8 witnesses to provide testimony. If a witness
9 feels they're unable to complete their comments
10 during their testimony, written comments will be
11 accepted through August 15th, 2010. It would be
12 appreciated if you would provide a written copy of
13 your testimony, if available, to me.

14 State Senators Steve Morris, Derek
15 Schmidt and John Vratil have submitted written
16 testimony and requested that it be read and added
17 to the record at today's hearing. The testimony
18 is as follows: This is dated August 2nd, 2010.
19 As President, Majority Leader and Vice President
20 of the Kansas Senate, we offer this letter as our
21 official statement to be entered into the record
22 in the public hearings regarding the Prevention of
23 Significant Deterioration air quality construction
24 permit issued for the Holcomb Expansion Project.
25 President Morris also writes as a State Senator

1 representing the residents of Holcomb and the 39th
2 State Senate District.

3 We have been proud proponents of this
4 project virtually since its inception. The
5 Holcomb Expansion Project represents one major,
6 responsible, sensible step toward meeting Kansas'
7 future energy needs and to adding low-cost,
8 reliable baseload energy to the state's portfolio
9 of energy resources. Over the last decade, Kansas
10 has been recognized as one of the states in the
11 forefront of the development of alternative
12 bioenergy. At the same time, many of our existing
13 coal-fired baseload-providing plants have
14 continued to age and fall below desired emission
15 standards as new technology and increased demand
16 outstrip their capabilities.

17 In its previous application, the Holcomb
18 Station expansion was determined by KDHE technical
19 staff to meet or exceed all local, state, and
20 federal standards for health and safety. It will
21 use the best available control technology to
22 ensure air emissions are below the stringent
23 limits set by both state and federal government
24 regulators. Sunflower Electric has a strong
25 reputation of caring for the environment while

1 pursuing clean and domestic renewable energy.
2 Sunflower leads the state in wind energy
3 development. The transmissions lines built to
4 support the Holcomb Expansion Project will provide
5 expanded transport for energy produced by wind,
6 solar, biofuels and other renewable sources.

7 One clear demonstration of Sunflower's
8 commitment to renewable and diverse energy
9 resources is its recent agreement with Abengoa
10 Bioenergy to purchase baseload electricity
11 generated by biomass at the United States' first
12 hybrid cellulosic ethanol and power plant in
13 Senate President Morris' hometown of Hugoton.
14 This project, both innovative and sustainable, may
15 ultimately prove to be carbon-neutral.

16 A second exciting invasion is the
17 Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy Center which was
18 developed in collaboration with the National
19 Institute of Strategic Technology Acquisition and
20 the Kansas Bioscience Authority. It will work to
21 develop an ethanol plant, a biodiesel plant, a
22 dairy and anaerobic digester, an algae reactor and
23 one of the nation's cleanest coal-burning
24 facilities.

25 Further, it is noteworthy that

1 Sunflower's Holcomb Expansion Project will emit 90
2 percent less sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides
3 and some 20 percent less carbon dioxide than
4 Kansas' existing coal-fueled units. Sunflower's
5 tireless pursuit of state-of-the-art technologies
6 makes possible this tremendous improvement over
7 older, nearly obsolete design.

8 In addition to its significant
9 investments in wind and other renewable energy
10 resources and its proven commitment to
11 environmental stewardship, Sunflower's Holcomb
12 Expansion Project will bring to Southwest Kansas
13 the economic development spurred by the new
14 construction and good, long-term jobs. It can
15 truly play a major role in helping Kansas weather
16 and recover from the current economic downturn.

17 We respectfully encourage the Kansas
18 Department of Health and Environment to follow the
19 recommendations of its own professional technical
20 staff and approve this application and clear the
21 way for this great project to begin. In the years
22 to come, Kansas will ultimately need every bit of
23 the energy provided by this 895-megawatt expansion
24 and Kansans will continue to enjoy reliable,
25 low-cost energy from the diverse and responsible

1 energy portfolio that Sunflower Electric Power and
2 the Holcomb Station Expansion Project.

3 Thank you for this opportunity to submit
4 written comments into the official record of this
5 hearing.

6 Sincerely, Stephen R. Morris, Senate
7 President; Derek L. Schmidt, Senate Majority
8 Leader; and John Vratil, Senate Vice President.

9 I will now call off a group of names.
10 When your name is called, please come to the front
11 of the auditorium where we have the first row of
12 chairs reserved. I will then call off your name
13 when it is your turn to speak.

14 The first group of names is Charles
15 Ayers, Randy Partington, Cliff Mayo, Don Doll,
16 Jonathan Mitchell, David Schneider, Ernest Lehman
17 and Jerry Brown.

18 Mr. Ayers, you can proceed when you're
19 ready.

20 CHARLES AYERS: I am Charles Ayers,
21 retired farmer and minister. I live in Leoti,
22 Kansas, out on the west edge.

23 I have been, and continue to be a trustee
24 of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, with offices in
25 Scott City, as well as the past chairman of

1 Sunflower Electric and a continuing board member.
2 I've participated in local and regional civic
3 programs and organizations as a farmer and
4 minister. My ministry has been to small
5 congregations in Western Kansas, and as such, I
6 have related to many of the communities of the
7 west.

8 The following comments are submitted with
9 the intent of moving the evaluation of the SEPC
10 application more towards the center seeking some
11 balanced response to identified and real needs.

12 The application is made to a politically
13 appointed committee in a charged climate of
14 partisan definition and extreme voicing from the
15 anthropogenic climate change position and its
16 opponent, the no climate change lobby. Both
17 extremes are exclusively using models developed
18 from, or designed to process, selected data
19 extracted from specific target sources. Any model
20 used by either side has yet to show an accurate
21 predictive ability due to limited capacity to
22 integrate all of the variables which are a part of
23 any natural system. The conclusions of the
24 extreme voices are being presented as reality, and
25 are seriously funding -- seriously funded and

1 through lobbying trying to approach any available
2 political forum. It seems to me it's time to move
3 away from assuming that idealism makes good law,
4 and that law creates reality.

5 It would appear that a strong case can be
6 made for an intentional effort to balance the
7 needs of our societies, the degrees of
8 encroachment on all natural systems and resources,
9 and the cost to the consumers as well as the cost
10 to the environment, the physical ability to
11 actually execute a decision. It's time to stop
12 deceiving ourselves. Most renewable systems are
13 not inexpensive, even though they are promoted as
14 so. The price tag is deceptive because of the
15 grants and loans and tax incentives which are real
16 costs politically spread across larger and larger
17 populations. There are unrecognized environmental
18 implications to all energy production, renewable
19 or not. Technologies have been currently no --
20 very few new emissions technologies have been
21 currently proven to actually work, and so we are
22 needing to find some way to come into a center.

23 Sunflower Electric has been before this
24 commission for some seven years or so, and the
25 company has a reputation for its discipline and

1 pride in meeting and responding to particular
2 needs. It would seem to me that in the balance of
3 things, the history and experience would show that
4 Sunflower Electric will more than likely integrate
5 any new and reliable technologies. Analysis of
6 what currently works and what is actually
7 available points towards the Holcomb plant
8 expansion.

9 Thank you for your brief attention.

10 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Randy
11 Partington.

12 RANDY PARTINGTON: My name is Randy
13 Partington, the county administrator of Finney
14 County, and I'm going to just give a brief
15 overview of my written testimony in the matter of
16 time.

17 I support this project, as a lot of
18 Finney Countians do. Some of the reasons for
19 supporting this project are the lengths at which
20 Sunflower has gone to make sure the project
21 addresses the environmental concerns. Sunflower
22 and Mid-Kansas Electric are committed to
23 maintaining a diversified generation portfolio
24 featuring an appropriate combination of base,
25 intermediate, peaking, and renewable resources.

1 The project will be designed, constructed, and
2 operated in a manner consistent with all
3 applicable federal, state, and local regulatory
4 requirements. The detailed design and planning
5 process for the project was closely scrutinized
6 for potential impact on the environment.

7 The majority of the area to be used for
8 the project is part of the original development of
9 the Holcomb Station. Construction of the project,
10 adjacent to the existing unit, will allow for the
11 common use of a number of facilities, including
12 the rail spur, coal unloading system, coal
13 reclaiming system, water treatment, switch yard
14 solid waste disposal system, warehouse, and
15 control facilities. The use of these common
16 facilities will minimize the overall ground
17 disturbance and environmental impacts associated
18 with the development of the project.

19 This environmentally-sound project will
20 benefit all Kansas by generating necessary jobs
21 and tax revenue at a time when both are necessary.

22 I ask that you support this project.

23 Thanks.

24 MR. WELLS: Cliff Mayo.

25 CLIFF MAYO: I would ask for a point

1 of clarification. I'm going to be speaking to
2 water rights and if this is not appropriate at
3 this time, I can just leave my written testimony.

4 MR. WELLS: You can provide some real
5 brief comments, but do you have anything in regard
6 to the proposed permit, the air and construction
7 permit?

8 CLIFF MAYO: Not really, this is just
9 for water use and what Wheatland Electric has
10 done.

11 MR. WELLS: Can you give a real quick
12 summary of it?

13 CLIFF MAYO: I can tell you -- my
14 name is Cliff Mayo, I reside at 1909 Grandview
15 East, Garden City, Kansas.

16 I know that Wheatland Electric has
17 purchased some 33,000 acres of Sandhill land that
18 carries about 53,000 acre feet of water,
19 agricultural water rights, that will be reduced by
20 40 percent when it goes into industrial use, and
21 that in a nutshell is my reason for being here is
22 more conservation. I think that is a legitimate
23 thing to recognize as being conserving of water
24 when we reduce that by 40 percent.

25 I leave it at that, sir, if that

1 qualifies.

2 MR. WELLS: Okay. I would encourage
3 you to, also, if you desire to contact the
4 Division of Water Resources.

5 CLIFF MAYO: I've done that, and I
6 have left a copy of my remarks.

7 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

8 CLIFF MAYO: Thank you very much.

9 MR. WELLS: Don Doll.

10 DON DOLL: My name is Don Doll. I
11 reside at 5830 North Haflich Road, Garden City,
12 Kansas, and I'm a Finney County Commissioner. I'm
13 a life long resident of Finney County, I own and
14 operate a farming business and have for many
15 years, and I appreciate this opportunity to
16 present my testimony for consideration.

17 I would like to voice my support for the
18 technical staff at the Kansas Department of Health
19 and Environment and their development of the draft
20 air permit for Sunflower Electric.

21 As a business owner and county commissioner
22 and taxpayer, the projected 17 million in added
23 local income during construction and more than 20
24 million annually once operational is extremely
25 important to me and my fellow citizens. This

1 project generates significant tax return at the
2 local, state and federal levels. In 2009,
3 Sunflower paid more than \$8 million in property
4 taxes. Sunflower's existing operation has
5 resulted in 364 jobs in Kansas providing earnings
6 of 28 million per year.

7 Sunflower has a proven track record of
8 environmental stewardship and a business model for
9 the minimizing of any negative impacts from
10 operations on environment, and I will leave a
11 couple written examples of that with you.

12 In summary, the state-of-the-art project
13 represents a job-creating boost to the Kansas
14 economy. Its sensible approach will meet the
15 state's growing demand for clean, reliable,
16 low-cost energy using a diverse mix of energy
17 resources. When it comes to the most advanced
18 technologies available, Sunflower Electric Power
19 Corporation and Kansas are leading the way.

20 Thank you for your time, and I ask you to
21 approve this permit.

22 And also, I'd like to add, I have no
23 regrets. I don't have any problems living within
24 the same county that Sunflower would be in. I
25 have full faith in their ability to control the

1 air and air quality there.

2 MR. WELLS: Jonathan Mitchell.

3 JONATHAN MITCHELL: Good afternoon,
4 my name is Jonathan Mitchell, and I'm located at
5 109 East First Street in Hoisington, Kansas,
6 67544. I am the city manager of the city of
7 Hoisington, and I want to start by thanking you
8 guys for this opportunity to provide public
9 feedback and take comments on this critical
10 project known as the Holcomb Expansion Project.

11 The City of Hoisington has supported the
12 expansion of Holcomb since 2007, when it passed
13 resolution 2007-12. We understand the need for a
14 baseload power in our state and we've worked for
15 years to secure affordable baseload power and are
16 privileged to work together with other communities
17 to accomplish this goal.

18 Our community is a member of the Kansas
19 Municipal Electric Agency and the Energy
20 Management Project 2, also known as EMP2. EMP2 is
21 a group of cities which includes Russell,
22 Stockton, Lincoln, Pratt, Washington, Ashland,
23 Beloit, Osborne, and the City of Hoisington. We
24 currently purchase power from Mid-Kansas Electric
25 and have a contract with them for baseload power

1 until 2018.

2 I've heard a great deal of discussion,
3 not today, but around the state about Holcomb and
4 how so much of its power is going to be shipped
5 out of state, but I have not heard much discussion
6 about the communities that stand to benefit from
7 this project.

8 Hoisington and other members of the EMP2
9 group and KMEA hope to receive approximately
10 40 megawatts of power from this Holcomb Expansion
11 Project. State-of-the-art coal plant like the
12 Holcomb expansion will provide the most advanced
13 emissions mitigation technology and I appreciate
14 the work you guys have put in to draft a permit
15 that meets all the applicable state and federal
16 laws. This project will help to provide another
17 piece in the diverse energy portfolio our state
18 needs to provide for future growth and development
19 in underserved parts of Kansas. This project will
20 create hundreds of jobs and billions of dollars in
21 infrastructure in the State of Kansas. This
22 project will certainly benefit the Holcomb area
23 with lasting enhancements for decades to come, but
24 it'll do much more than that. This project will
25 hope to facilitate future development in our great

1 state and will help communities like Hoisington to
2 keep their lights on.

3 I appreciate the opportunity to visit
4 with you all today. Appreciate your consideration
5 to my testimony, and I hope my testimony affirms
6 the city of Hoisington's request that KDHE approve
7 the application for the expansion of the Holcomb
8 project.

9 MR. WELLS: David Schneider.

10 DAVID SCHNEIDER: Good afternoon. My
11 name is Dave Schneider. I'm the general manager
12 of Western Cooperative Electric based out of
13 WaKeeney, Kansas. I reside at 721 North Third
14 Street in WaKeeney. I have been the general
15 manager for the past 20 years.

16 Western Cooperative Electric is a rural
17 electric cooperative member-owned by our consumer
18 members. We are not for profit. We have a board
19 of directors of nine that I answer to, and they
20 are also all members of the cooperative.

21 Before our coal acquisition we went 19
22 years without a rate increase, so that tells you
23 that our Board of Directors is not there for a
24 profit. We have no need for a profit. We're just
25 trying to make a margin and keep costs low to our

1 consumer members.

2 We went through the Aquila accusation.
3 Purchased Aquila in 2005 with several other
4 cooperative members of Sunflower, and began
5 serving those customers April 1st of 2007. We
6 served customers in Ellsworth, Ellsworth County,
7 Russell County, Lincoln County, Osborne, and
8 Barton Counties.

9 With the acquisition, Westar determined
10 that they were going to terminate the contract for
11 173 megawatts of coal-fired energy, so we will
12 lose that in 2019 and we need power to replace
13 that to serve our customers that we acquired. We
14 need the Holcomb expansion.

15 Coal-fired energy is stable in prices and
16 reliable energy. 200 megawatts of this energy
17 will come to Kansas, including our Ellsworth and
18 Ellsworth neighbors.

19 Already diversified, Sunflower uses coal,
20 wind, gas, and other renewables. Gas is
21 unpredictable. As you well know, the prices have
22 jumped around the last two years, and in
23 particular, a couple years ago, up to 13 cents --
24 \$13 per one hundred million kilobytes -- BTU's.

25 Wind is unreliable. 30 to 40 percent of

1 the time we have energy. I wouldn't want to
2 depend on wind energy for my air conditioning the
3 first part of this week.

4 The Holcomb Expansion Project will create
5 1,900 jobs during construction, 88 permanent jobs,
6 which will bring in \$484 million in earnings over
7 the four years of construction and 14 million
8 annually in wages.

9 During the next 30 years, Sunflower will
10 benefit Kansas by \$400 million in this project.

11 It is reliable energy. Emissions from
12 this project is not my concern or my worry. My
13 concern is that without projects of this type, my
14 children and my grandchildren will not be able to
15 afford the energy they need to live a productive,
16 comfortable life. We need to do what is right.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WELLS: Ernest Lehman.

19 ERNEST LEHMAN: I am Ernie Lehman,
20 president and general manager of Midwest Energy,
21 which is at 1330 Category Road in Hays. Midwest
22 Energy endorses the issuance of the air quality
23 construction permit as it helps us meet the
24 long-term needs of our customers.

25 Midwest Energy is customer-owned and

1 KCC-regulated. It's a gas and electric utility
2 serving 90,000 customers in 41 counties in central
3 and western Kansas. We are not a member or owner
4 of Sunflower. Midwest Energy focuses on the
5 delivery end of the business and buys most of its
6 energy from other power suppliers, principally
7 Westar and the Smoky Hill wind farm. We are
8 transmission-owning members of the Southwest Power
9 Pool, and I also serve as vice-chair of the Kansas
10 Electric Transmission Authority.

11 Midwest Energy meets customers' needs
12 through a process we call the four-legged stool:
13 Baseload energy available and used around the
14 clock; cycling and peaking energy available
15 on-call and used typically during the daytime and
16 during the hottest hours of the year; renewable
17 energy, taken as nature provides it to us; and
18 energy efficiency and conservation. I'll briefly
19 touch on each leg in reverse order.

20 Midwest Energy is committed first and
21 foremost to helping customers reduce their use of
22 energy and lower their utility bills. We do this
23 through our nationally recognized How\$mart program,
24 where we make home and business efficiency
25 improvements paid for on the utility bill by

1 capturing a part of the savings, and through many
2 other programs.

3 Midwest Energy has wind energy supplies
4 equal to 15 percent of our peak demand, two and a
5 half times the percentage Westar has. We have a
6 variety of tools and have conducted numerous
7 workshops to help customers evaluate and connect
8 small wind systems.

9 Midwest Energy provides cycling and
10 peaking energy through its own gas-fired
11 generating units, including the highly efficient
12 Goodman Energy Center and through power supply
13 contracts, principally with Westar.

14 All of Midwest Energy's firm baseload
15 energy comes from Westar, most of it from the
16 Jeffery station. The last Jeffery unit was
17 completed in 1983, 27 years ago. Over time,
18 Westar needs more and more of its baseload
19 resources to serve its own retail customer. This
20 could leave our customers out in the cold, and the
21 heat.

22 Sunflower's proposed new Holcomb unit is
23 attractive to Midwest Energy for several powerful
24 reasons. We need new electrical generation to
25 serve growing Kansas needs. Western Kansas

1 already has inadequate baseload generating
2 capacity. The existing Holcomb unit has performed
3 well and has been managed efficiently and with
4 integrity by Sunflower. Thorough groundwork has
5 been laid with respect to plant design, fuel
6 supply, operating efficiency and environmental
7 protection. And overall project costs are
8 expected to be competitive.

9 We see no reason why the Air Quality
10 Construction Permit should not be granted and the
11 impact analysis, plant design, and Sunflower's
12 past experiences as a plant operator at this
13 location give us confidence the new Holcomb unit
14 would meet the stringent requirements of current
15 law.

16 I urge the KDHE issue the Air Quality
17 Construction Permit as drafted as soon as possible
18 after the close of the comment period.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. WELLS: Jerry Brown.

21 JERRY BROWN: My name is Jerry Brown,
22 I live at 1215 Meyer Drive, Salina, Kansas. If
23 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
24 allows this coal plant, it will hinder the
25 development of wind energy in our state. You'll

1 be slowing the development of clean wind energy in
2 a state that was recently ranked second behind
3 Texas in wind energy potential and allow a very
4 polluting coal plant to be built.

5 The argument that wind energy is
6 intermittent and cannot replace coal is wrong. A
7 recent five year study of the wind capacity of the
8 east coast found that interconnected wind farms
9 over a large geographical error are equivalent to
10 baseload coal. The idea if it's not blowing one
11 place, it's blowing another. The area from Texas
12 to North Dakota would surely produce the same
13 conclusion. As the top -- the top four states are
14 in that chain, from Texas up to North Dakota.

15 Much has been said about the economic
16 benefit of this coal plant to our state. However,
17 were Kansas to push the development of wind farms,
18 far more landowners, cities and counties would
19 benefit from lease payments and payments in lieu
20 of taxes, which will be spread across the state.

21 It takes about 25 young people, young
22 person's job, to maintain one 250-megawatt wind
23 farm. Those jobs, lease payments, and payments in
24 lieu of taxes to counties would be spread across
25 the western half of Kansas that would benefit many

1 small towns that are now losing population.

2 To allow a polluting coal plant right in
3 the sweet spot of our nation's best location for
4 clean wind energy has got to be the stupidest
5 thing the state could do.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. WELLS: I'll call another group
8 of names. If you would, please come down the
9 front. Eric Depperschmidt, Brice Paulsen, Judy
10 Stephens, Clare Gustin, Gary Swartzengdruber, Sam
11 Roberts.

12 Mr. Depperschmidt, you can begin.

13 ERIC DEPPERSCHMIDT: I'm going to
14 summarize my testimony as I've provided written
15 testimony, also.

16 I'm here today on behalf of Finney County
17 Economic Development Corporation to express our
18 strong support for the Sunflower Electric Power
19 Corporation's application for a prevention of
20 significant deterioration construction permit with
21 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
22 for one new 895 megawatt supercritical coal
23 generating unit in Finney County, Kansas.

24 While I'm here to present the economic
25 impact, as you'll review in my written testimony,

1 I would like to state that we are confident that
2 Sunflower will operate this new plant in
3 accordance with the state and federal laws. They
4 have a longstanding record of doing so, and we
5 know they intend to operate this plant in the same
6 manner as they have since the Holcomb plant was
7 built in the 1980's.

8 Utility companies know all too well the
9 burdens with trying to provide economical energy
10 to their consumers. It makes no sense to set
11 unrealistic requirements on our utility companies
12 when they are currently following the guidelines
13 set by our elective bodies of our government.
14 These laws have been legislative for over 35
15 years. If we continue to lower the bars on the
16 standards, we're also slowing our goal of becoming
17 an energy independent nation.

18 I do believe that there be a common
19 ground for concerns of the environment will work
20 to provide energy to the growing urban areas. It
21 should be noted that Sunflower Electric built its
22 first coal plant in 1983 in Holcomb, Kansas, and
23 has been proactive in meeting all requirements
24 placed on them both by federal and state
25 government to ensure their clean air emissions

1 were obtained.

2 In closing, Finney County Economic
3 Development Corporation supports this construction
4 of this new supercritical coal generation plant
5 and further urges KDHE to approve the permit
6 application in accordance with all existing laws
7 and regulations set by the State of Kansas and the
8 United States of America.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. WELLS: Brice Paulsen.

11 BRICE PAULSEN: Good afternoon. My
12 name is Brice Paulsen, I'm a boilermaker out of
13 Local 83. I live at 908 Jade, Concordia, Kansas.

14 Glad this air conditioning working so
15 good today, we've some good reliable electricity.
16 I have the fortune or misfortune of having 26 wind
17 turbines in my front yard. I noted to my friend
18 driving down that I haven't seen any of them spin
19 in the last two days.

20 Kansas needs good, reliable energy that
21 the Holcomb plant could provide. State-of-the-art
22 technology can keep our emissions down. We all
23 want a good, clean world, but we want the energy,
24 too, to keep our air conditioners running, to keep
25 our freezers frozen.

1 It would provide 1,500 jobs that are
2 really needed in Kansas right now, as well as tax
3 revenue, and just help out our economy altogether.

4 I would urge everybody to support this
5 plant, and also urge everybody to check into the
6 Mountaineer plant, it's either in West Virginia or
7 Virginia, where they totally sequestered all CO2
8 carbon. New technologies are working which will
9 reduce the emissions that people are concerned
10 about.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. WELLS: Judy Stephens.

13 JUDY STEPHENS: My name is Judy
14 Stephens, I'm a Sister of St. Joseph from
15 Concordia, Kansas, 923 Mound Street.

16 First of all, I would like to thank
17 Sunflower Electric for their efforts to provide
18 affordable electricity for its many customers and
19 from looking ahead to future needs of electrical
20 demand.

21 Secondly, I would also like to express my
22 gratitude to Sunflower for agreeing with Governor
23 Parkinson to produce some portion of its
24 electricity through renewable resources.

25 However, I come here today to testify in

1 opposition to building a coal-fired plant at
2 Holcomb, Kansas. I ask the Department of Health
3 and Environment not to grant this permit for this
4 new plant.

5 My principal reason for opposing the
6 construction of this plant is because of the
7 negative impact of using coal. Mining coal is
8 dangerous and dirty, whether you use mountain top
9 removal or underground mining. Wikipedia says
10 thousands of miners die from mining accidents each
11 year, especially in the process of coal mining.
12 Most of the deaths today occur in developing
13 countries and rural parts of developed countries.

14 Water pollution is a serious issue in
15 coal mining areas. Heavy metals leak out into
16 streams and groundwater affecting the health of
17 animals, plants and humans, according to March
18 2006 EPA document on acid mine drainage.

19 Large waste pits called impoundments
20 result from what isn't used at the power plant.
21 We remember when one of those impoundments broke
22 away in Kingston, Tennessee, several years ago and
23 flooded into a town.

24 EPA has publically listed 44 coal waste
25 storage ponds, dams and impoundments with a high

1 hazard potential due to their proximity to 26
2 communities in ten states.

3 Of course, we know air pollution is a
4 serious problem with coal mining and coal-fired
5 plants. They're one of the largest sources of air
6 pollution in the United States.

7 On a personal note, my family lives north
8 of Holcomb and would be directly downwind from the
9 plant since most winds are from the southwest in
10 Kansas.

11 I have other points but I'll conclude
12 with this: Instead of building more coal-fired
13 power plants to produce the electricity we need
14 today and into the future, I urge our senators and
15 representatives to be proactive with renewable
16 energy sources. We have abundant sun and plenty
17 of wind in Kansas that costs us nothing to access,
18 and there are no toxic byproducts that hang around
19 for years. Wind and solar emit no pollution or
20 carbon dioxide. They don't pollute the water with
21 heavy metals.

22 So, in conclusion, I say "no" to another
23 coal-fired plant in Kansas and "yes" to renewable
24 energy, and thank you for this opportunity to
25 testify.

1 MR. WELLS: Clare Gustin.

2 CLARE GUSTIN: Good afternoon, my
3 name is Clare Gustin. I'm the Vice President of
4 Member Services and External Affairs for Sunflower
5 Electric Power Corporation. Our office is located
6 at 301 West 13th Street in Hays, Kansas, 67601.

7 I just want to make a few comments about
8 the need for electricity. You will hear, I know,
9 about population loss. I was at the hearing on
10 Monday in Overland Park and there were a number of
11 people that addressed that issue. In fact,
12 someone said, if you're losing population, why do
13 you need more electricity?

14 Well, we need more electricity for a
15 couple of reasons. Number one, there's a contract
16 that expires at the end of 2018. Several people
17 have already talked about that today.

18 Another reason is that with most advances
19 in technology, we use more electricity. When my
20 husband and I were married 25 years ago, we had a
21 black and white television, a color television,
22 and a stereo, and that was it of the electronics
23 in our house. Today our house is very different.
24 We all use electricity for those things that add
25 value to our life.

1 A third reason that we need more
2 electricity for western Kansas is because we've
3 been fortunate to have some commercial load growth
4 opportunities. We've had oil and gas exploration
5 that uses electricity. We've had opportunities
6 with biofuels, and beef processing. People
7 recognize that our work force in southwest Kansas
8 does a good job processing and manufacturing those
9 products.

10 A third opportunity that we have welcomed
11 is with natural gas compression and processing
12 systems, and we value those customers. They've
13 been coming on our system more and more for the
14 last 15 years. We value those customers because
15 they help us spread our fixed cost over a larger
16 number of kilowatts. So we value those natural
17 gas customers, and appreciate that they enjoy
18 using electricity from coal for their processes
19 instead of their own product.

20 I hope that you will approve this permit
21 because we need this in western Kansas for many
22 reasons.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. WELLS: Gary Swartzendruber.

25 GARY SWARTZENDRUBER: From Salina,

1 Kansas, Gary Swartzendruber, academic training is
2 in social science and human development, but I
3 pride myself in being pretty much aware of
4 information gathering in any aspect of the human
5 experience.

6 MR. WELLS: Sir, can you raise the
7 microphone so everyone can hear you, please.

8 GARY SWARTZENDRUBER: Regarding the
9 permitting, I understand the force of economics on
10 the human experience. As I understand,
11 Sunflower's already received somewhere in the
12 neighborhood of 60 M, as in million, dollars
13 towards an indebtedness they've carried over.
14 They're in line to receive approximately another
15 \$100 million. I do understand the value of
16 economics, the value of the dollar on human
17 behavior.

18 Regarding the permitting, I'm quite
19 confident as the guidelines were not appropriately
20 met the first time around when rejected by
21 Secretary Bremby, as I understand it, the EPA has
22 set forth the appropriate guidelines to follow
23 this time, I'm quite confident that they will not
24 be met at this point, and then just in terms of
25 common sense, it seems Kansas fairly often gets

1 accused of being somewhat backwards in terms of
2 our position, of moving forward in terms of what's
3 good for the country and good for the states in
4 this country.

5 It seems a little out of sorts to put it,
6 as Larry the Cable Guy would say, let's put her in
7 R for reverse, continue going backwards to use the
8 sunshine of yesterday and rely on that once again
9 to produce our energy for today and tomorrow.
10 Seems to me to be more appropriate to consider
11 putting her in D for drive, drive forward to use
12 the alternative sources of energy that are
13 available right now.

14 Thanks for the opportunity to give input.

15 MR. WELLS: Sir, could you give us
16 your address?

17 GARY SWARTZENDRUBER: 528 South
18 College, Salina, Kansas.

19 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Sam Roberts.

20 SAM ROBERTS: Hello, my name is Sam
21 Roberts, I'm a boilermaker out of Local 83. I
22 live at 501 South Orange, Rossville, Kansas,
23 66533.

24 I believe you should accept the Holcomb
25 power plant because that's our livelihood, me and

1 the members of our locals, and like I say, we
2 create many jobs in this hard time of economics.

3 And also, we create more taxes for the
4 state to also rise from the bad times and
5 economics, and using the coal-fired power plants,
6 they're building up to safety regulations now, and
7 the older ones, we're updating them also to meet
8 all the regulations, and as I say, with the wind
9 turbines, it's not always windy in Kansas, so
10 you're not always going to get energy from
11 something that needs something that's not always
12 there, so I just feel that you should accept it
13 and, you know, let us build the power plant.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. WELLS: Again, I'm going to call
16 another group of names, if you would, please, come
17 down. Ron Pomeroy, Robin Pe'a, Mike Wolownik,
18 hope I pronounced that right, Kyle Nelson, Abner
19 Perney, and Chris Brown, and Mr. Pomeroy, if
20 you're ready.

21 RON POMEROY: I'm Ron Pomeroy,
22 President of Kansas Castings, 508 Industrial,
23 Belle Plaine, Kansas, which is 67013.

24 We are a foundry that casts parts for
25 Great Plains Manufacturing of Salina, Moridge

1 Manufacturing, which makes the Grasshopper, but we
2 also cast for many other companies, including wind
3 energy. Our company's very energy intensive so we
4 rely heavily on Kansas' low-cost reliable power.

5 I'm here today submitting this testimony
6 in support of construction of the Sunflower
7 Electric coal-fueled plant in Holcomb. Energy is
8 a significant cost factor in our business and most
9 of the businesses here in Kansas. The project
10 will help supply our state's economy, create jobs,
11 and further economically develop Kansas.

12 Over the last two years, I've watched the
13 debate on the Holcomb plant in amazement. The
14 opponents say we can get by without coal energy.
15 That statement just doesn't make very much sense.
16 Energy needs of Kansas and our region cannot be
17 met without a mix. Reliable -- renewable fuels is
18 great, but they have their -- reliably integrating
19 them into the grid has their own challenges.

20 The harsh reality is that coal powers
21 half of our nation's electricity and more than
22 70 percent of the energy in Kansas. Since 1970,
23 coal use has tripled, while regulated emissions
24 have been cut in half. Like it or not, coal's the
25 most abundant and affordable energy resource

1 native to our nation. Thanks to the advanced
2 technologies, coal can continue to meet growing
3 energy demands while improving its environmental
4 profile.

5 The Holcomb expansion will be one of the
6 cleanest coal-fired plants in the country, helping
7 to provide access to reliable low-cost energy to
8 400,000 families and businesses throughout the
9 state. It'll be the best available control
10 technology to meet all federal regulations.

11 I'm not a very polished speaker here, a
12 little different than some of the rest.

13 Doesn't make sense for our state to
14 continue to debate whether or not we need it.
15 It's time to stop the discussion and start moving
16 forward. This project is good for Kansas families
17 and good for Kansas business.

18 On behalf of Kansas Castings, I hope you
19 approve the air permit.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. WELLS: Robin Pe'a.

22 ROBIN PE-A: Good afternoon. My name
23 is Robin Pe'a, I reside at 303 Barber Avenue in
24 Holcomb. I'm speaking on behalf of the governing
25 body for the city of Holcomb.

1 The governing body for the city of
2 Holcomb endorses the Sunflower Electric Power
3 Corporation application for PSD construction
4 permit, and supports the Holcomb Expansion Project
5 for the following reasons: First, the Sunflower
6 Electric Power expansion project is a multimillion
7 dollar construction project that will initially
8 bring an estimated 1,900 jobs -- construction jobs
9 and eventually new permanent jobs to this state,
10 which will translate into additional property and
11 sales tax revenue.

12 Next, Sunflower Electric Power
13 Corporation has a long history of following
14 regulations set forth by all regulatory agencies
15 which govern power production. Sunflower's past
16 record and willingness to adhere to current
17 add-ons speaks volumes to the integrity of this
18 company. Sunflower Electric has shown a desire to
19 be a frontrunner in cutting edge technology by
20 alining themselves with the National Institute of
21 Strategic Technology Acquisition and
22 Commercialization to identify technologies to
23 utilize carbons.

24 A key aspect in life is balance just as
25 it is in energy policy. A balanced energy policy

1 must include the development of renewable energy
2 resources coupled with the use of fossil fuels.
3 Solar and wind power cannot do it alone. The
4 Sunflower Expansion Project will increase the
5 grid's capability of providing basepower to match
6 the much needed inclusion of wind energy and
7 provide an economic model to model the western
8 power grid and construction of new transmission
9 lines.

10 Without the construction of transmission
11 lines, potential wind energy cannot be harnessed.
12 The importance of addressing the ever increasing
13 baseload energy demands of the state and
14 surrounding areas should not be dismissed. It
15 should also be acknowledged that there is a
16 difference in peak demand and baseload energy.
17 Wind energy has the potential to assist with load
18 with peak demand, however, one cannot replace
19 fossil fuels for baseload energy.

20 Finally, in order to add energy, we must
21 have the baseload power which the Sunflower
22 expansion would provide.

23 The governing body of the city of Holcomb
24 supports the expansion of the Sunflower Energy
25 Complex and asks KDHE to approve this permit.

1 MR. WELLS: Mike Wolownik; is that
2 correct?

3 MIKE WOLOWNIK: Yes. My name is Mike
4 Wolownik, I reside at 801 East Lawrence Street,
5 Frontenac, Kansas 66763, and I am in favor of the
6 Sunflower project.

7 I would like to thank each of you for
8 hosting today's hearings. I am third generation
9 Kansan. My grandfather came to this country to
10 work. He came to Southeast Kansas because workers
11 were needed to mine coal. Many of our ancestors,
12 specifically came to Kansas looking for a better
13 life. They mined coal, raised families, and paid
14 taxes.

15 My father lived in Kansas and worked for
16 the Union Pacific Railroad moving coal to and from
17 our great state. I can proudly say he worked for
18 45 years, raised a family, and paid taxes.

19 I also work and live in Kansas. I'm a
20 proud 30 year member of Local 441, Plumbers and
21 Pipefitters, and President of Southeast Kansas
22 Building Trades, and a Kansas taxpayer.

23 I worked building coal powerhouses. The
24 recent technological advances will enable us to
25 build the cleanest coal powerhouse known to man.

1 Not only will this project put Kansans on the
2 forefront of technology, it will put Kansas to
3 work.

4 I wholeheartedly support this project,
5 and hope you will move forward and issue this
6 permit as needed.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WELLS: Kyle Nelson.

9 KYLE NELSON: My name's Kyle Nelson,
10 I'm the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating
11 Officer for Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.
12 My office is located at 301 West 13th Street,
13 Hays, Kansas, 67601. I support your approval of
14 the proposed permit and would like to discuss our
15 generation portfolio and our support of renewable
16 energy.

17 Sunflower recognizes the importance of
18 preserving our environment and is committed to
19 advancing practical and cost-effective ways to
20 utilize renewable energy. Sunflower's existing
21 generation portfolio is 48 percent natural gas,
22 42 percent coal and 10 percent wind based on
23 nameplate ratings. Sunflower has strongly
24 supported Kansas wind energy production through
25 purchase of energy from 325 wind turbines located

1 on two wind farms in central and western Kansas.

2 Legislation creating a renewable
3 portfolio standard was passed in 2009 that
4 requires most Kansas utilities, including
5 Sunflower, to generate or purchase specified
6 amounts of electricity from renewable resources.
7 In 2007, Sunflower became one of the state's first
8 electric utilities to meet then Governor Sebelius'
9 wind energy challenge. Sunflower is proud to
10 identify that we already have more than 20 percent
11 wind energy based on Kansas RPS regulation rules.

12 Sunflower has also committed to
13 facilitate additional Kansas wind resources equal
14 to 20 percent of the production capability of the
15 proposed Holcomb unit representing an additional
16 179 megawatts of wind resources beyond the
17 legislative RPS requirements through a 2009
18 agreement with Governor Parkinson.

19 Sunflower is currently working with
20 developers of what would be the nation's first
21 hybrid cellulosic ethanol plant and utility unit
22 using Kansas crop residue and other potential
23 biomass from the region and located near Hugoton,
24 Kansas. The project will provide approximately
25 500 construction jobs and nearly 100 full time

1 jobs once completed. This exciting \$550 million
2 project is another example of how local electric
3 cooperatives are pursuing new energy solutions to
4 meet the growing demand for electricity, while
5 stimulating the economy in an environmentally
6 sound manner.

7 In addition to these wonderful renewable
8 energy projects, Sunflower's partnered with the
9 National Institute of Strategic Technology
10 Acquisition and Commercialization to create
11 Sunflower Integrated Bioenergy. In cooperation
12 with the Kansas Bioscience Authority, this new
13 entity is working to facilitate innovative
14 approaches to find practical solutions for carbon
15 emissions. This strategic alliance is working on
16 exciting initiatives to prepare Sunflower and
17 perhaps other utilities and industries for
18 potential future carbon legislation.

19 Rest assured, Sunflower and its partners
20 are actively engaged in efforts to make sure to
21 keep the lights on in Central and Western Kansas
22 in a way that protects the public's health and the
23 environment.

24 I urge you to approve Sunflower's permit
25 application as proposed and thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak today.

2 MR. WELLS: Abner Perney.

3 ABNER PERNEY: That's good and close
4 enough. My name is Robert Abner Perney,
5 P-E-R-N-E-Y. I live at 101 Overhill Road, which
6 is just a couple blocks away from here in Salina,
7 Kansas.

8 I am retired and a former city
9 commissioner of our fair city.

10 I'm here as a citizen of the city to
11 express my opinion that this application should be
12 denied. My understanding of the current proposed
13 additional coal-fired generating unit at Holcomb
14 is that it would burn Wyoming coal, consume
15 thousands of acre feet of Kansas water pumped from
16 the Ogallala, High Plains Aquifer, and contribute
17 seven million tons of CO2 annually to global
18 warming, while spewing air pollution across the
19 state.

20 Now, a lot of people talk about the best
21 available control technology, but the truth is the
22 best is none too good. It's not good enough. We
23 need to quit polluting our air by burning fossil
24 fuels.

25 This power plant will help provide power

1 to the front range of the Rockies but it will
2 produce nothing positive for our state except a
3 questionable cash flow during the construction,
4 and an enormous long-term debt. Every power plant
5 built recently in the USA has gone grossly over
6 budget. They're all costing their consumers, and
7 their taxpayers may ultimately have to pay the
8 bill, more than projected. This one is set to do
9 the same thing, and Sunflower's historic financial
10 condition is not something that gives us
11 confidence that this thing will come through and
12 actually save money for anybody. It's a poor
13 idea, it's a poor investment.

14 This coal-fired power plant would be a
15 huge investment in the wrong industry, drawing
16 money away from the correct investment. It's old
17 technology which will add millions of tons of
18 carbon dioxide to the global warming problem. It
19 will consume water much more needed to sustain
20 agriculture and human life in Western Kansas.
21 It'll add pollutants to our air resulting in acid
22 rain, laced with lead and mercury, and that will
23 be statewide, and possibly beyond our state.

24 The investment would be much better made
25 in wind and solar power, transmission lines and

1 development of energy storage systems -- I can't
2 say it, energy storage systems -- that will safely
3 address the problem of intermittency of solar and
4 wind generation systems. Such systems will also
5 help with the wasteful off peak operation of
6 conventional power plants and thereby improve the
7 overall efficiency of our power supply system.

8 Kansas is ideally situated in terms of
9 geology and existing related technologies to
10 become a world leader in Compressed Air Energy
11 Storage Systems which are already in operation in
12 Germany and the USA, but not in Kansas.

13 It's far past time for Kansas to leap
14 ahead to the cutting edge in dealing with global
15 warming by meeting our energy needs. We need to
16 support the new cleaner technologies so that we'll
17 preserve our water, our air and our climate. We
18 need to start now by rejecting this application
19 which is a last gasp of a failed technology.

20 I ask the KDHE to deny the application.

21 MR. WELLS: Sir, would you mind
22 giving your written comments?

23 ABNER PERNEY: I did leave a written
24 comment elsewhere.

25 MR. WELLS: I'd like to remind

1 everyone if you do have a written copy of your
2 comments, it would be much appreciated if you'd
3 leave that with us before you leave.

4 The next name I'll call is Chris Brown.

5 CHRIS BROWN: My, my name is
6 Christopher Brown, 402 Orange, Rossville, Kansas.
7 I'm a proud member of Local 83 Boilermakers Union.

8 I'm here today to ask you to go ahead
9 with this, let them build it. This is a huge part
10 of what we do, our livelihoods, as men and Kansas
11 workers. We work here in Kansas, Missouri, Iowa,
12 Nebraska. We build power plants, go on throughout
13 all these things.

14 As the prior gentleman said, this is
15 questionable cash flow into these communities, but
16 when I work at these new powerhouses, I spend at
17 least one third of my money that I make every
18 week, every year, at where I'm working. I send
19 the rest home to Rossville, Kansas, the other two
20 thirds. I spend all of my money here in Kansas as
21 long as I'm working in Kansas.

22 If we don't make more jobs here in
23 Kansas, then Kansas dies. If we don't grow, we
24 die. It's as simple as that. We need more help
25 by everyone to bring these powerhouses up.

1 The technology is just amazing on what
2 they do nowadays. It needs to be passed. Not
3 only for workers like myself that are actually the
4 men out there doing the work, building Kansas,
5 building America, but for the people that buy the
6 power and everything else, because there's not a
7 person in here that's going to go home, turn off
8 your air conditioning, and sit in the hot heat, or
9 keep your furnace off or not run any of your
10 technology just because, just because you don't
11 want a new power plant to be built.

12 If we don't grow, we die.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. WELLS: Thank you. Call another
15 group of names, if you would, please, come down to
16 the front. Mace Hensen, Duane Banks, Mary Mertz,
17 David Norlin, Richard Taylor, Ardean Maxey, and
18 Bill Urton.

19 Is it Mace?

20 MACE HENSEN: Yes.

21 MR. WELLS: You may proceed.

22 MACE HENSEN: I'm Mace Hensen, 304
23 Poplar, Wamego, Kansas. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak in support of the Holcomb
25 Plant Expansion Project. For over five years I've

1 been working with many of the rural electric
2 cooperatives in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and
3 Nebraska as a representative for a geothermal
4 equipment manufacturer, and what I've found here
5 in Kansas is probably some of the most aggressive
6 electric utility programs in energy efficiency and
7 conservation in four states.

8 Rural electric cooperatives in Kansas
9 understand conservation. They understand energy
10 efficiency, and they understand how to communicate
11 both to their line customers and their members.
12 They start education programs for safety,
13 conservation and energy efficiency with the
14 children of their line customers and they support
15 rebate programs for water heaters and heating and
16 cooling equipment throughout the entire state.

17 Rural electric cooperatives lead the way
18 in converting incandescent light bulbs to compact
19 fluorescent bulbs and I've not seen an
20 organization or business that pursues every
21 opportunity to educate their customers like they
22 do. If they have that type of commitment to their
23 existing programs, I have absolutely no doubt they
24 will pursue all opportunities to make sure the
25 Holcomb plant is the most efficient, safely

1 operated and most environmentally conscious
2 operation that it can be.

3 This project is a cutting edge coal-fired
4 generating facility that will deliver low-cost
5 electricity to more than 400,000 people that the
6 member cooperatives serve in central and western
7 Kansas. It will result in a very, very large
8 economic stimulus all across the country, and it
9 will create thousands of jobs in Kansas.
10 Communities throughout western Kansas will benefit
11 from new jobs, new tax revenues and increased
12 demand for goods and services.

13 My wife and I officially made Kansas our
14 permanent home in April of this year, and as a
15 permanent transplant to Kansas, I need the energy
16 that will be produced by the Holcomb plant. We as
17 Kansans need the energy produced by Holcomb
18 instead of paying higher prices from markets
19 outside of Kansas. We need the jobs that this
20 project will provide, and we need the reliable
21 service that this plant will provide for years to
22 come. It is in our best interest as Kansans to
23 let a group like this build and operate this
24 facility now.

25 KDHE technical staff has the opportunity

1 and the ability right now to develop a
2 construction air permit for the Holcomb Expansion
3 Project that follows the Clean Air Act and
4 protects the environment and the public health of
5 Kansas. This environmentally-sound project will
6 benefit all Kansans by generating necessary jobs
7 and tax revenue at a time when both are so
8 desperately needed here in Kansas.

9 I urge you to approve this construction
10 air permit.

11 MR. WELLS: Duane Banks.

12 DUANE BANKS: Good afternoon. I'm
13 Duane Banks from the city of Russell, Kansas, I'm
14 the electricity utility director and the address
15 would be 133 West Eighth Street.

16 I'm here on behalf of my city council,
17 which passed a resolution in support of this
18 project, and I urge you to strongly consider
19 passing it.

20 I'm here really to speak on behalf of my
21 customers. My customers struggle each month
22 paying their electric bills because of the
23 inflation, the instability of natural gas prices
24 that affect our purchase power. We do have a
25 contract with MKC to buy portions of coal and then

1 we also load follow with our other units or what
2 we can purchase off the market.

3 We are supportive of all wind and other
4 renewable energies. We want to see that, but we
5 have to keep in mind that it has to be attainable
6 and affordable for our customers. I have 3,400
7 customers. Majority of them are more of the
8 bedroom community and retirement age and on a
9 fixed income. The construction of this coal plant
10 will give us a more stable baseload power that we
11 can rely on and continue to provide affordable
12 energy for our customers. It's very important to
13 us that we do this and fulfill, and also
14 substitute for the current baseload that will
15 expire in 2018, as you've heard from other people.
16 It is vital to our communities to get this energy.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WELLS: Mary Mertz.

19 MARY MERTZ: My name is Mary Mertz, I
20 live at 1936 Queens Road here in Salina. I
21 understand there are two good reasons to build a
22 new coal-fired power plant: The resulting energy
23 will be cheap and convenient, but there's one
24 better reason not to build it, and that's cleaner
25 air. Sure, I like things cheap and convenient,

1 it's very pleasant to have all the electricity I
2 want whenever I want it. My respected fellow
3 citizen asked who of us would be willing to turn
4 off our air conditioning to save electricity, and
5 I'm here to say that I would in order to promote
6 the health of the people, the other creatures, the
7 soil that feeds us. That's more important to me
8 than my own comfort.

9 Building a coal plant would be easier and
10 more pleasant in the short-term, but not building
11 it, putting resources into wind, solar and other
12 sustainable renewables instead is the right thing
13 to do.

14 Please think long-term and do the right
15 thing. We will all breathe easier.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: David Norlin.

18 DAVID NORLIN: Thank you, 608 East
19 Republic, Salina. I'm -- two of the reasons that
20 I'm here, two of the 12 or two of the many, my
21 grandchildren are here in the audience with me
22 today, and as my granddaughter brightly said, you
23 can give one example of how we're using energy
24 right here, it's too cold. Taking off suit coats
25 would greatly benefit us, we don't need this kind

1 of energy, and that's why cheap and convenient is
2 maybe the wrong way to go.

3 We're going to have to do more with less
4 and that's a fact we're going to have to face up
5 to as a society. Most of the folks here speaking
6 have some sort of a self-interest and you can
7 argue an interest economically, and their paper
8 testimony has been also pretty profoundly put, we
9 have a real reason not to put this plant up.

10 Let's look just at the cost. We've been
11 talking a lot about economics. Let's not follow
12 the example of the state of Illinois who just went
13 through their Prairie State energy project over
14 the last several years.

15 In 2001, it was bid out and has now
16 doubled in cost at \$4.4 billion. Who's paying the
17 price? The answer is suburbs and cities in
18 Illinois and around Chicago, particularly.
19 They're locked into a 28 year contract with
20 Peabody Coal who now foot about 5 percent of the
21 bill and liability that they're stuck with. The
22 1600 megawatts of that plan's inception that will
23 be generated already have more than doubled to
24 2900 megawatts for the states Illinois and Indiana
25 just in energy.

1 It now seeks \$122 million in new debt
2 just in the last month for the latest cost
3 overruns, despite 2004 state's approval of 850
4 million to build three plants. That \$850 million
5 is now going to build about three-quarters of
6 Prairie State Energy. That's how bad a shape they
7 got into by not paying attention to the signs that
8 were facing them right in the face. Probably with
9 people testifying in favor of them economically at
10 their hearing as well.

11 So that plant will turn out 13 million
12 tons of heat-trapping CO2, and we have testimony
13 here that we're not going to quite reach that,
14 it'll be a little over half, but will add to that
15 to make 3 million automobiles -- excuse me, the
16 equivalent of 3 million automobiles on the road.

17 KP&L's plant, which is going up, the
18 plant will raise rates by 11 and a half percent in
19 Kansas, 14 percent in Missouri. There are all
20 kinds of statistics that I can give you and have
21 some written testimony about where our energy is
22 going at a great cost to us and no apparent
23 benefit.

24 Economic development in the State of
25 Kansas has a bad record. The TransCanada Keystone

1 XL Pipeline is going to -- we didn't get any
2 attached revenues for the expansion of that
3 pipeline, and yet, it's going to suck oil from tar
4 sands, three times the refining capacity of the
5 refining CO2 that regular refinery would give, et
6 cetera, so we can go through that in a variety of
7 ways, but I want to end with a great quote.

8 Chris, from the union, just testified
9 that if we don't have growth, we die. As my
10 granddaughter Alysa just said, grandpa, that's
11 true, but if we pollute the air, we die, too.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WELLS: Richard Taylor.

14 RICHARD TAYLOR: Thank you. My name
15 is Richard Taylor, I reside at 209 Bel Air in El
16 Dorado, Kansas, 67042.

17 I currently serve as the business manager
18 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 441 and
19 president of the Kansas State Building Trades
20 Council. I represent a group that fully supports
21 this project.

22 It seems this Holcomb plant issue is one
23 that has, in many instances, caused divide across
24 the state with much of the public.

25 The environmental concerns of this

1 project are understood. We are not blind to those
2 concerns, but no project is without some down
3 side. We feel that Sunflower has, in the past,
4 and is obviously planning with this project, any
5 and all of the latest and best technologies to
6 make this plant as safe and clean as possible.

7 Fossil fuel plants will have to be the
8 baseload energy source for many years to come.
9 Why not go forward with this plant and let Kansas
10 be the leader to implement the latest technology
11 available which is already planned for the Holcomb
12 Project and apply it to other plants in the state,
13 and for that matter, across the country to lower
14 current emissions from those plants while we
15 continue to pursue new clean fuel power sources
16 for the future.

17 While the Kansas economy is beginning to
18 show signs of recovery, many of our state's
19 workers and their families continue to struggle.
20 The decision by the KDHE to open this public
21 comment and hearing process for an air quality
22 permit for a new Western Kansas power plant is a
23 positive step toward overcoming tough economic
24 times in our state.

25 KDHE's permitting of the proposed

1 Sunflower Electric Power Corporation expansion in
2 Holcomb will stimulate Kansas' economy, will be
3 creating hundreds of good paying jobs for our
4 skilled labor work force and generating \$120 million
5 in wages over the construction phase alone.

6 It is important to show support to the
7 Holcomb station throughout the public comment
8 process as communities throughout the state will
9 not only benefit from new jobs but new tax
10 revenues and increased demand for goods and
11 services.

12 This new plant will be good for Kansas
13 workers, their families, our communities, and our
14 economy. This message is sent on behalf of nearly
15 1,500 Local 441 Plumbers and Pipefitters and more
16 than 20,000 Building Trade Craftsmen across the
17 state.

18 I respectfully ask that you support the
19 numerous jobs that this project will provide for
20 many years to come, and please approve this
21 permit.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: Ardean Maxey.

24 ARDEAN MAXEY: Maxey, M-A-X-E-Y.

25 Ardean Maxey, 829 Meadowbrook Road, Salina,

1 Kansas.

2 Although, I am a member of the League of
3 Women Voters which officially opposes this permit,
4 I'm here speaking for myself. It's really hard to
5 believe that we're still here, still discussing
6 this issue. Evidently, coal powered energy plants
7 and bad pennies have a lot in common.

8 Years ago when we first ventured into
9 outer space and started receiving those fantastic
10 images of what our planet looks like from out
11 there, I truly believed that the way we treated
12 one another and the beautiful blue marble that we
13 all inhabit, it would change, but I was terribly
14 wrong and terribly naive.

15 Nothing changed. We continue fighting
16 wars, we continue polluting, we continue
17 destroying the one place where we all live. When
18 you look at those iconic photos of earth, you see
19 great expansions of land, huge oceans, and a
20 beautiful atmosphere encircling the globe. What
21 you don't see are borders. You can't really tell
22 where Mexico ends and the U.S. starts. You can't
23 really see where Oklahoma begins and Kansas ends,
24 it's all one, so what we have to say today is not
25 said just for Kansas.

1 Everyone in this room must realize that
2 what we choose to throw up into the atmosphere
3 does not stop at the border, it circles the globe.

4 Have you been watching the news?

5 Have you seen the unprecedented heat
6 wave, drought, and out of control wild fires
7 sweeping across Russia?

8 Have you been paying attention to the
9 unprecedented rains and flooding in Pakistan, with
10 thousands dead and missing?

11 Have you been tracking crop failures due
12 to weather changes around the world, resulting in
13 millions going hungry?

14 Okay. Big melodramatic things, and we're
15 here to talk about a little power plant in the
16 western corner of a small state in the middle of
17 the country, so what's the big deal?

18 The big deal is by now we know everything
19 we do has consequences, and the consequences of
20 using fossil fuels is becoming more deadly with
21 every passing day. Besides the fact that fossil
22 fuels are finite, we're running out of time, and
23 we're running out of fuel. We need to move into
24 the future of clean renewable energy and out of
25 the dark ages of dirty, of dangerous, expensive

1 coal, yes, expensive coal.

2 Coal is called the cheap source of
3 energy, but it's far from cheap after you realize
4 the cost to the health of your children and
5 grandchildren and the quality of the life that
6 you're leaving them. Now's the time to show the
7 courage to do the right thing.

8 Wind and solar power will create
9 infinitely more jobs than will coal and the use of
10 renewable energy shows that we're ready to embrace
11 the future for the sake of all of our citizens.

12 The insistence of the use of coal only
13 benefits a few individuals that seem to have very
14 little care for the rest of us.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. WELLS: Bill Urton.

17 BILL URTON: Thank you. My name is
18 Bill Urton, I reside at 17403 Southwest Dawnhill
19 Road, Rose Hill, Kansas, 67133.

20 I am here today representing Plumbers and
21 Pipefitters Local Union 441 and President of the
22 Central and Western Kansas Building Trades. I was
23 born in Kansas and am a lifetime resident of
24 Kansas. I'm a 31 year member of Plumbers and
25 Pipefitters Local 441 in Kansas.

1 Thirty years ago, we had seven refineries
2 in our state. Today, we have three. Thirty years
3 ago, Wichita was the Air Capitol of the World, not
4 today. The state is dying on the vine in
5 industry, and if we don't do something about it,
6 we will be nonexistent.

7 In the early 1980's when Holcomb 1 was
8 built, there weren't many construction jobs
9 available. I and many of my brothers and sisters
10 in the building trades were very fortunate to work
11 on the Holcomb project to support their families.
12 Thirty years later, I'm now representative and
13 dispatcher for my union of 1,500 members
14 statewide.

15 During the last year and a half, our
16 local has experienced upwards of 30 percent
17 unemployment and I know some of the other crafts
18 as high as 50 percent unemployment. In my
19 position, I get calls every day that I am out of
20 unemployment, I'm losing my home, in some cases,
21 homes they have owned for 25 and 30 years. My
22 car, by the way, I'm losing it, that I need, if I
23 had a job, and there's many cases where some have
24 lost their family because they cannot provide.

25 These disturbing situations can be fixed.

1 They can be fixed with the approval and
2 construction of Holcomb 2. If approved, our local
3 intends to provide training for residents from the
4 Garden City and surrounding areas with the intent
5 to build a work force in the area that offers
6 training for career -- a career that is a good
7 wage, with health care and retirement benefits.

8 In closing, I and my local union brothers
9 and sisters are asking KDHE to approve the air
10 permit for Holcomb so we can put Kansas back to
11 work.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WELLS: I'm going to call some
14 more names. John Shepherd, Daryl Burnham, Leroy
15 Lawrence, Randy Cruse, Larry Horseman, Don Henry,
16 Jr., and Larry Garmany.

17 Mr. Shepherd, you can proceed when you're
18 ready.

19 JOHN SHEPHERD: Good afternoon, John
20 Shepherd, I reside at 11612 Carr Circle, Wichita,
21 Kansas.

22 I am business agent of Local 441 of
23 Kansas, the Plumbers and Pipefitters. I'm here to
24 show my support for the approval of this permit as
25 I do represent 1,500 plumbers and pipefitters in

1 the State of Kansas. If anyone knows how a
2 pipefitter works his career, he is constantly
3 trying to string together jobs, maybe 20, maybe
4 30, maybe a hundred over a 40 year career span to
5 feed his family, provide, and to give him the
6 opportunities that he needs.

7 Like I said, I would like to -- I'm in
8 favor of this permit. It's time to allow
9 Sunflower the opportunity to move forward with
10 this project. This permit is for baseload
11 coal-fired power source. It is not -- it's the
12 only thing that can provide what we need in the
13 State of Kansas.

14 During the brokerage of the agreement
15 between Earl Watkins and Governor Parkinson, I
16 applauded what that agreement provided. It
17 provided modifications to Holcomb Unit 1 to reduce
18 the environmental impact of that unit, it provided
19 wind generation development, it provided use of
20 biomasses of a power generation pool. It also
21 provided transmission development to the western
22 grid, funding of energy efficiency programs, and a
23 commitment to the development of a bioenergy
24 center.

25 These all, summed together, provide for a

1 great opportunity for plumbers and pipefitters and
2 also provides for the opportunity to diversify the
3 power generation needs of this state.

4 Once again, I'd like to ask you to please
5 approve this permit, and I appreciate your time.

6 MR. WELLS: Daryl Burnham.

7 DARYL BURNHAM: Daryl Burnham, El
8 Dorado, Kansas, 809 South High Street.

9 I would like -- I work in the
10 construction industry. I would like to see the
11 air construction permit issued to the Holcomb
12 project. The construction industry is never
13 long-term anywhere. I've worked 33 years in the
14 construction industry building and maintaining
15 refineries, coal plants, powerhouses, chemical
16 plants, et cetera. It is my livelihood, along
17 with many others.

18 I believe this project is important to
19 Kansas construction workers, and not only
20 construction workers, Kansas businesses,
21 manufacturers, and the State of Kansas.

22 I would also like to take note that
23 America manufacturers are moving overseas to
24 countries that have low-cost electric power
25 supplied by coal. If America is going to compete

1 globally in manufacturing, it will have to have
2 low-cost electric power supplied by coal.

3 There have been wars over oil and energy,
4 such as Kuwait, where thousands of people have
5 died. Who knows how much pollution was created by
6 the oil fires that I know was never measured.

7 If America and the rest of the world is
8 going to be a leader in moving to electric cars
9 and oil independence, oil that's needed -- the
10 coal plants are needed now.

11 The Holcomb project is a major project,
12 not only for Kansas, but America. Let's not turn
13 our backs on this opportunity to reduce car
14 emissions and build America.

15 Thank you folks for your time.

16 MR. WELLS: At this time I've had a
17 special request for Kay Burns if you would like to
18 speak now -- she did leave, okay.

19 Then we'll have Leroy Lawrence.

20 LEROY LAWRENCE: My name is Leroy
21 Lawrence, Jr., and I reside at McPherson, Kansas,
22 at 412 South Maple, and there's many points of
23 contention to talk about with this, but three I'd
24 like to bring to mind are: There is always going
25 to be an increased demand for energy in the United

1 States that we live in, and I don't think there's
2 any denying that, from the clothes we wear, to the
3 cars we drive, to the refined oil to put fuel in
4 the cars to get to a speech like these where we
5 can say what we want. We need the energy.

6 The second is the technology at this time
7 that we live in is some of the best for anything
8 that we're investing in. I cannot imagine that a
9 coal burning power plant would be less efficient
10 and more pollution oriented than ones that were
11 built in the past.

12 Thirdly, probably most important is.
13 Jobs for Kansans while it's being built and jobs
14 for Kansans after it's been built.

15 I appreciate your time.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

18 Randy Cruse.

19 RANDY CRUSE: Thank you, Mr. Wells,
20 for this opportunity. My name is Randy Cruse, I
21 live at 430 Terrace Trail East in Lake Quivira,
22 Kansas.

23 I'm the business manager for Boilermakers
24 Local 83, we have a three and a half state
25 jurisdiction, of which Kansas is a large part of

1 it. We have 1,225 active field and manufacturing
2 shop members, including 179 apprentices. These
3 are full time jobs, and 279 of those individuals
4 are residents of the State of Kansas.

5 I have a 28 year old son who is a college
6 graduate but elected to join the boilermaker
7 apprenticeship because he was not able to find a
8 good job. He recently graduated from our
9 apprenticeship and is now working. I have a 17
10 year old son who's a senior at Shawnee Mission
11 Northwest and I'm concerned about his future. My
12 wife is a K.U. grad, a professional lady who's
13 been in the newspaper reporting industry for
14 several years who has a part time job in it.

15 The Sunflower project indeed does rely on
16 coal which is a domestic energy source. It's
17 affordable, and these boilers run in the hottest
18 and coldest weather extremes, whether it's
19 raining, the wind's blowing, snow's blowing,
20 whether it's day or it's night. This is possibly
21 why this ancient technology has been around for so
22 many years, and constantly, improvements are made
23 by manufacturers.

24 Electric generation industry has
25 responded to benchmarks that the government sets

1 for them to meet, and it will continue to do so.
2 They're a willing partner in these projects
3 because they are stewards of our environment,
4 also. They have a great deal to do with that.
5 Their products and upgrades on current
6 technologies is what boilermakers and pipefitters
7 and other building trades make their living off
8 of. I've heard it described that it's a part time
9 job, but it's actually, for us, it is a career.

10 I would like to also speak that I live
11 within 50 miles, where I live, of 25 coal-fired
12 power plants. I have no reckoning that they even
13 exist, other than when you drive by one, you see
14 the stack. You can't smell them, can't see them,
15 can't hear them. That's because the technology
16 that they're applying to this new coal-fired power
17 plant in Garden City will be what they are using
18 now in Kansas City.

19 I'd also like to speak -- one of the
20 concerns I have, I spoke that I have a 17 year old
21 son. These jobs that are created by this
22 industry, the energy industry, are for college
23 graduates and new entries into the job market.
24 Our building tradesmen are also looking to the
25 future and wondering what it holds. This project

1 is an excellent jobs with fringe benefits, pension
2 and health and welfare, and these jobs have
3 apprenticeships for entry level first time
4 workers.

5 As my job as a business manager, we have
6 170 of those apprentices, and if you saw the look
7 on a young man and a young woman's face when they
8 have an opportunity to enter into our industry, it
9 would greatly influence you.

10 One of the reasons that I bring this is
11 up, there is a human side to this, and I believe
12 that there is a place in the middle, like the
13 first gentleman who started speaking, that we all
14 need to come to.

15 I thank you for your time, and I am in
16 support of the project.

17 MR. WELLS: Larry Horseman.

18 LARRY HORSEMAN: Thank you, my name
19 is Larry Horseman, I reside at 6219 Albervan,
20 Shawnee, Kansas, 66216, and as the speaker before
21 me spoke, we are in a related industry. I'm the
22 President of Boilermakers Local 83 representing,
23 like Randy Cruse said, about a thousand plus
24 members who, that's how we make our living,
25 building and maintaining power plants and

1 refineries, and this project would mean jobs for
2 Local 83 members, and I speak in support of the
3 permit before us today. Not only would it boost
4 income to the area, but to boilermaker families as
5 well with their benefits, healthcare and decent
6 wage.

7 The project will use the most modern
8 technology known to date, and this is a known
9 fact, especially by the boilermaker industry,
10 thus, the word "boilermaker". That might scare
11 some people in the room, but we have been doing
12 this for a hundred plus years, generating
13 electricity for people.

14 Boilermakers install these pollution
15 control devices. That's what we do. That's a big
16 part of our job description, and there's three
17 generation of boilermakers in my family. I also
18 have a new granddaughter and I'm concerned about
19 the environmental issues facing her, but I'm not
20 that concerned with the health because of the
21 modern technology.

22 Yes, I'm concerned, I hike, I hunt and
23 fish, my son, my dad, we're environmentalists, we
24 care about nature, and I want my granddaughter to
25 have those pleasures when she gets older, if she

1 cares to.

2 The power is going to be needed. It is
3 needed, and someone is going to build it, I
4 believe. It may as well be Kansans who are on the
5 short end of unemployment right now and that will
6 ensure adequate supply for our future and our
7 children's future.

8 I heard some remarks Monday at the
9 hearings that the construction phase is six years
10 away. I'm not sure of those numbers, where they
11 exactly came from, and I'd almost like to see data
12 or some of those stats in writing from someone, if
13 I could, but if it's six years or it's one year,
14 it still means jobs to our members and our
15 families, and I ask that you please approve this
16 permit today.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WELLS: Don Henry, Jr.

19 DON HENRY, JR.: Thank you. My name
20 is Don Henry Jr., I live at 3115 Country Lane,
21 Augusta, Kansas, 67010.

22 And I heard a gentleman talking about
23 questionable economical impact. I'm a result of
24 that impact. I've been a pipefitter for 29 years,
25 and I was an apprentice on Holcomb when they built

1 it, and I learned my trade there, and I've worked
2 on powerhouses throughout Kansas, oil refineries
3 throughout the nation.

4 I'm now project manager for Piping and
5 Equipment in Wichita, Kansas, so I learned my
6 craft there, and it excites me to think that there
7 are some young people here in a few short weeks
8 that will be sitting in the classroom, Garden
9 City, Ulysses, all these towns in that part of the
10 state, that they may not know, as we take
11 applications for apprenticeships, they'll have
12 this life and this trade before them.

13 We will be organizing people. It's a
14 great trade. It's been great for me. I have four
15 children. I've put three of them through college,
16 had health care all my life, and have driven past
17 that powerhouse years past when my children were
18 small and showed them that plant and talked to
19 them about, you know, the child that relies on
20 electricity may be in an intensive care unit in a
21 hospital. Elderly people in nursing homes.

22 Everything -- as pipefitters, people
23 knows what plumbers are, pipefitters, we're kinda
24 like invisible people. We work in these
25 powerhouses and refineries and working in water

1 treatment plants to supply clean water that we
2 just take for granted in this country, and it's
3 tough, grueling work. It's highly technical. Our
4 trade is advanced in welding technologies, and I
5 thank the good Lord every day that I had the
6 opportunity to work in that powerhouse and having
7 worked across the country, I've never seen an
8 electrical company more in tune with the upkeep of
9 their plant to keep with technology and to
10 maintain their equipment, keeping it in good
11 working fashion, so I support the Holcomb project.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WELLS: Larry Garmany.

14 LARRY GARMANY: Larry Garmany, I live
15 in Houston, Texas, 13807 Woodforest Boulevard.
16 I'm here as a citizen, grandfather.

17 I've worked in construction for 40 years.
18 I've been building boilers, refineries. The first
19 boilers that I worked on, we had no pollution
20 control, no air quality, water quality. The newer
21 facilities are much more efficient and cleaner.

22 My concern is with the infrastructure
23 throughout the U.S. We need additional power. We
24 need to continue building these boilers.

25 Thank you.

1 of our area's last big boom about 30 years ago. I
2 was six, and my mother was relocating us from
3 Virginia and looking for work as a school teacher.
4 At the time, Garden City and the surrounding area
5 was experiencing population growth. Young
6 families were moving into the community as a
7 result of jobs being created by a new beef packing
8 facility and new power plant. The best chance my
9 mother had of finding a job was in Garden City, a
10 community with a growing economy located between
11 her mother, who lived in Greensburg, and her
12 sister, who lived in Hamilton County.

13 My mother found a teaching job and she
14 made Garden City our home. She concluded a 27
15 year teaching and administrative stint with USD
16 216 in Deerfield a few years ago and lives a
17 retiree's life in Garden City. A healthy,
18 pro-business Southwest Kansas economy allowed her
19 to arrive in the state with very little, get a
20 job, raise a child, build her skills, enjoy a
21 rewarding career, and finally enjoy retirement.

22 In 1991, I graduated from Garden City
23 High School and went on to college, down the road
24 at Bethany. I moved back to Garden City in 2002
25 having previously lived and worked in local

1 government in Oakley, Kansas, Salina, Kansas and
2 Lawrence, Kansas. I wanted my young family to
3 experience the things I was able to experience as
4 a child in a family and the culture of our
5 community.

6 However, I was crushed when Secretary
7 Bremby arbitrarily denied the previous air quality
8 permit. I was further crushed when people from
9 parts of the state I used to call home painted a
10 distorted picture of our community and our local
11 cooperatives without knowledge of either. People
12 I knew and at one time respected spoke out in
13 ignorance against Sunflower talking about their
14 greed for profits -- they have none, Sunflower is
15 a cooperative that's owned by customers that they
16 serve -- and our refusal to focus on wind
17 generation -- well, that's not true either, since
18 Sunflower has consistently held a larger portfolio
19 of wind than any other generator in Kansas, in
20 addition to their natural gas generation -- and
21 finally, our regions use of water. Interestingly,
22 most water related conservation ties back to the
23 efforts made by the ag industry in western Kansas.

24 I fear that the vibrant economy I once
25 knew in southwest Kansas is falling victim to the

1 hypocrisy from other parts of the state.

2 I admire the reasons for which the
3 opposition has gotten involved, but find them
4 ultimately disingenuous when the same people
5 ignore far more egregious concerns in their
6 region. I admire the call to serve but not when
7 it comes from people who want others to conserve
8 so they can continue to grow their own consumption
9 at a gluttonous pace.

10 I also admire the commitment to monitor
11 air quality, which is why I back Sunflower
12 Electric Power Corporation, their existing coal
13 facility and their proposed facility which will
14 use the latest start-of-the-art technology to
15 control emissions.

16 Please unlock the handcuffs the state
17 unjustly slapped on our economy three years ago.
18 I want to --

19 MR. WELLS: Sir, your time has
20 expired.

21 MATT ALLEN: I want to raise my
22 family in the same environmentally and
23 economically healthy community where my mother
24 raised me.

25 MR. WELLS: Patrick Richardson.

1 PATRICK RICHARDSON: I'm Patrick
2 Richardson, I live at 2253 Everett Road in Pueblo,
3 Colorado, 81006. I'm a member of Plumbers and
4 Pipefitters Local Union 441 from the State of
5 Kansas. I've been doing this for over 40 years.

6 I went to Pueblo 35 years ago to work on
7 a power plant, and I worked at about ten of them
8 after that new one, last one at Sunflower.

9 They all look alike. I just came from
10 the Pueblo -- the one in Pueblo, brand new one, I
11 just thought it would be a homecoming. It was all
12 new. Everything. The technologies they have
13 today, if you allow this permit, upon completion,
14 Kansas will have the cleanest power plant in the
15 United States, maybe the world. When I say the
16 world, in Pueblo, they put a generator in from
17 Japan, they had equipment from Europe, it came
18 from all over the world, so they're relying on
19 world technology to keep the emissions down and
20 make it efficient, and I hope you do pass this,
21 because like I said, I'm in it 40 years, so I'm
22 not planning on work there, although I'd like to,
23 but it will benefit Kansas and the world.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. WELLS: Wayne Penrod.

1 WAYNE PENROD: Thank you for the
2 opportunity to talk today. My name is Wayne
3 Penrod, and I am the Executive Manager of
4 Environment for Sunflower Electric. I live at
5 Hays, Kansas, work and office in Hays.

6 One of the earlier speakers said there's
7 a human side to this issue, and I'd modify that a
8 little bit, I want to say there's all sides to
9 this human. We heard about concerns about the
10 environment. I share concerns about the
11 environment, that's my job. I also share interest
12 and concerns about people having jobs because
13 without a vital economy, all the things that we
14 toil for are for not.

15 I'll tell you a little story that I think
16 may illustrate that. People say this is old
17 technology, it's been around since the 19th
18 century. I didn't live that long ago, so I'm not
19 sure, but EPA, KDHE and others have been working
20 in the last 55 years trying to integrate the need
21 to develop industrial facilities and preserve
22 human health and environment. That's the job that
23 you guys have, and in a sense, that's part of the
24 job that I have. KDHE, EPA both.

25 But that didn't come about by accident,

1 or maybe it did. In the late '40's in north
2 Pennsylvania, a place that had many different
3 types of industrial facilities including open
4 hearth furnaces for the production of steel,
5 inversion one night caused the death, if I'm not
6 mistaken, if I remember correctly, it was about 35
7 people, and there were well over a hundred people
8 that were hospitalized because of the air quality
9 in that area.

10 That awakened a lot of folks, a lot of
11 people in Pennsylvania, and ultimately in the
12 United States Congress and so from that came this
13 thing that we call the Clean Air Act. Its purpose
14 was to allow the integration of industrial
15 facilities and to preserve the air quality of
16 places where these facilities are constructed, so
17 that's the whole purpose. The purpose is to let
18 both sides of this human equation co-exist. We
19 can't submit an application that doesn't conform
20 to those requirements, and I don't know that
21 people understand that, and you can't issue a
22 permit.

23 In the first case, in 2007, the permit
24 met all those requirements except for this motion
25 that we had to do something about CO2, so I would

1 submit to you that, first of all, the existing
2 plant was one of the cleanest in the country, and
3 it's been that way for 27 years. Frankly, it's
4 time that other people got on board with that as
5 well. And this new one, I'm going to be so proud
6 to have been associated with it and to have worked
7 so hard to get this permit. I believe there's
8 folks in the state agencies that are going to be
9 proud of it, too, once it commences operation.

10 I thank you for your time.

11 MR. WELLS: Robert Wilson.

12 ROBERT WILSON: Thanks a lot for your
13 time, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate that.

14 I guess I'm not professional, and I'm not
15 sharp enough to understand exactly what's going on
16 with our environment. And I'm 75 years old. I'm
17 here representing only 30 family members,
18 immediate, children, grandchildren, great
19 grandchildren. All I ask is maybe we better
20 consider where our future is. You know, we've
21 gone overboard, we've contaminated our earth,
22 we've gone against God's principles. There's got
23 to be an end to it. That'll take care of itself.

24 Today I'm seeing and hearing, with my new
25 hearing aids, cash registers. I'm hearing power.

1 I'm hearing influence. This is what I'm hearing.
2 It's kinda like David and Goliath, that's where we
3 are. And I understand money. I'm not rich. I am
4 rich, I have great health and I have a great
5 family, so I am rich, but financially, I'm not,
6 but I am an independent contractor, I run my own
7 show, I've done it for years, worked for myself,
8 and I'm interested in our future.

9 I have three questions that I'd like to
10 have someone answer for me. They can do this in
11 another location. Question one is when we build
12 this plant, where does the power go? If it's
13 staying here, we've got to have it here, great.
14 If we're going to send it to another state, has
15 that state evaluated this situation and decided to
16 build one themselves, and if not, why, why didn't
17 they do this?

18 The other question is, we had a governor
19 that had as much authority as she could have,
20 knowledge, I'm not sure if she was sharp either
21 there, but she decided that we should reject this
22 because of our environment, and then we have a
23 lame duck governor who came in, who said, hey, I'm
24 not going to run, but I'm for this deal, let's get
25 it going.

1 If you just evaluate those things, think
2 of your future, your family's future, where are we
3 going? Is this something that's going to be good
4 for us, or not, and I'd appreciate that.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 MR. WELLS: Sir, give us your
7 address.

8 ROBERT WILSON: 123 South Railroad
9 Avenue, it is on that piece of paper, Clyde,
10 Kansas, 66938, and my phone numbers are there.

11 MR. WELLS: Thank you very much.

12 Jerry Short.

13 JERRY SHORT: Thank you, good
14 afternoon. My name's Jerry Short. I live at
15 13919 East Bayley Circle, Wichita, Kansas, 67230.

16 I'm a life long resident, born and raised
17 here. I'm also a proud member of the Plumbers and
18 Pipefitters Local 441. I'm here today to support
19 this project and to ask you for your support in
20 the air permit that's needed to go forward with
21 this project.

22 I think that a lot have been said today.
23 There's pros and cons about this coal-fired plant,
24 but I really think the bottom line is that this is
25 the cleanest technology that we have to date. I

1 believe that we need this for the State of Kansas.
2 All people will benefit from this throughout the
3 state, economically, and just for the convenience
4 of having the power at your fingertip when you
5 want it, and I'd just like to say that with your
6 approval on the permit, this will allow a lot of
7 people to go forward and save struggle who have
8 worked very hard in the past years to get this
9 permit.

10 I'd also like to thank Sunflower Power
11 for their efforts to build this plant in the state
12 of Kansas, and to help put us in the forerunner
13 front in the industry and to show the rest of the
14 United States that Kansas can matter.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. WELLS: Gerald Gillespie.

17 GERALD GILLESPIE: Yes, thank you
18 very much. Gerald Gillespie is my name and I
19 reside at 728 Highland in Salina here.

20 Each of us today, I think, surely
21 realizes that we not only speak for ourselves and
22 our own self-interest, but we're also a voice
23 primarily for our children and our grandchildren
24 and their posterity.

25 Choosing to build a coal plant in Kansas,

1 it seems to me, is to look in the eyes of those
2 children or grandchildren and tell them that a
3 fossil future is for you when, in fact, we knew
4 there were healthier options for them and for
5 their future. When we knew that building that
6 plant had less to do with helping their own state
7 of Kansas actually than helping serve interests
8 and energy of others outside of the state,
9 specifically with time; when we knew that CO2
10 emissions would accelerate the climate disruption;
11 when we knew that our air would be further
12 polluted with mercury, coal ash, ozone, by such a
13 plant; when we knew that our energy needs do not
14 clearly require this plant.

15 All of this, when we also knew that there
16 would be far fewer of these problems, still job
17 growth and sustainable job infrastructure with
18 bolder state and communities with natural gas,
19 wind, solar, and other renewable resources.

20 We can live without this coal plant. We
21 can live with some hardships if we need to, even
22 some lifestyle changes, if necessary. That's the
23 toughness of the Kansas character and Kansas
24 history, but even with this toughness of our
25 character, we know we cannot live in an

1 environment with less water, unclean air, fewer
2 energy choices, beholdng to interests that are
3 not always our own, as this deal for a coal plant.

4 We cannot dwell when we sacrifice the
5 environmental requirements and send the bulk of
6 our energy to out of state. We are all
7 conservative enough to know that we must conserve,
8 and not put at risk those basic elements of our
9 environment.

10 We also know that the health of our
11 grandchildren cannot live well and survive well in
12 a climate that is short-sided, selfish and without
13 vision as the fossil fuel future actually is.
14 There are alternative visions for energy sources
15 and jobs and plans to choose from them as we move
16 into our energy future, but we must choose them
17 and the jobs, they too will provide.

18 Let us choose an alternative to building
19 this coal plant. It's a plea not only for the
20 future for our posterity, but it's a plea from the
21 lives that are beyond our own and our own
22 self-interests.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. WELLS: I'll call another group
25 of names if you would come down, please. Still

1 have a number of you who have indicated a desire
2 to speak. We're going to try to get through all
3 of those names, if we can, before 5 o'clock.

4 Marvin Johnson, John Wadworth, Cynthia
5 Nelson, William Salmon, Phil Petty, David Mike
6 Ward, and Ruth Cathcart-Rake, do you want to
7 speak?

8 Ruth, are you here?

9 And then Don Johnson or maybe Dan
10 Johnson, I think it's Don.

11 Mr. Marvin Johnson, if you'd like to
12 begin.

13 Mr. Johnson, are you here?

14 DON JOHNSON: Yes.

15 MR. WELLS: Okay, sorry.

16 Are you Marvin Johnson?

17 DON JOHNSON: Don.

18 MR. WELLS: Marvin Johnson?

19 Okay, we'll begin with Mr. Wadsworth.

20 JOHN WADSWORTH: My name is John C.
21 Wadsworth, reside at 14810 Sport of Kings, in
22 Wichita, Kansas. I'm the President and owner of
23 Piping and Equipment Company, and I proudly employ
24 pipefitters, boilermakers and other tradesmen and
25 women in the field of construction. Piping and

1 Equipment's based in Wichita, Kansas and for 64
2 years, we've built power plants, refineries and
3 pipelines.

4 I'm asking the KDHE to approve a permit
5 application for the new state-of-the-art
6 895-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Holcomb,
7 Kansas. I believe this is a great investment for
8 the State of Kansas and Sunflower Electric
9 Corporation.

10 Sunflower, considering many options
11 including wind power, bioenergy, nuclear and other
12 fuels, Sunflower determined the most economic one
13 for them to spend their \$3 billion on is
14 developing the state-of-the-art coal-fired power
15 plant. This coal-fired power plant will use the
16 best available technology and will not be like
17 many of the older facilities. Coal-fired
18 technology continues to have technological
19 advancements and improvements that make this a
20 good choice and many of us in this room have been
21 in many power plants and refineries, we've seen
22 the difference and improvement in technology in
23 the last 30 to 40 years.

24 I believe that this decision should be
25 approved by the -- for the Sunflower Holcomb

1 expansion should be based on something called
2 creative destruction. Creative destruction is a
3 term that was coined by Joseph Schumpeter and his
4 work entitled Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy.
5 Creative destruction denotes a process of
6 industrial mutation that incessantly
7 revolutionizes the economic structure from within,
8 incessantly destroying the old one, and
9 incessantly creating a new one.

10 As a matter of fact, as part of this
11 permit application, Sunflower themselves will shut
12 down several of their older, less efficient
13 facilities. If someone else in this room wants to
14 invest their \$3 billion and believes that wind
15 power, biomass, natural gas-fired turbine
16 generation, and solar power is a better economic
17 and technological decision, then they should be
18 allowed to build that generation.

19 I, therefore, ask the KDHE to approve the
20 Sunflower request which complies with the
21 settlement agreement of May 4, 2009, between the
22 State of Kansas and Sunflower Electric
23 Corporation.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. WELLS: Cynthia Nelson.

1 like to see answered. How is the use of our
2 scarce and hard earned water resource to produce
3 the electricity for Colorado, which is where most
4 of this will go, how is that good economic policy
5 for Western Kansas?

6 How can Sunflower and supporters credibly
7 claim that failure of the 2008 legislation has
8 already increased rates, especially in these
9 service areas? And I might add that I am a small
10 woman landowner farmer who gets electricity on the
11 farm from Sunflower, so I also have had experience
12 with them.

13 Number three. How much is the Sunflower
14 Project really going to cost, and why not share
15 that information with the citizens and our elected
16 representatives? We've had a lot of figures
17 tossed out there, and even listening today, there
18 hasn't been the same amount of money that it's
19 going to cost, the same amount of people it's
20 going to employ. How many people is it going to
21 cost in the initial stages? All of these figures
22 are bantered about, and that's the third question,
23 boy, I've got a long ways to go.

24 How do the coal plants compare to other
25 available economic developments, and I think we've

1 heard a little bit about wind farms. I know if
2 you're familiar with -- I'm from Lincoln, Kansas,
3 602 North First Street, I'm very familiar with
4 wind farms. I think they're very a good idea for
5 alternative energies.

6 Number five, how can the proposed plant
7 use nonexistent "clean coal" technology. I
8 haven't found anything in my research and I only
9 have a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree,
10 but in my research, I haven't found how coal is
11 clean technology in any way shape or form. Sounds
12 more like a bumper sticker to me.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MR. WELLS: William Salmon.

15 WILLIAM SALMON: Thank you. My name
16 is William Salmon. I live at 744 South Tenth,
17 Salina, Kansas. I'm a retired United Methodist
18 pastor, and I want to first start by acknowledging
19 the fact that we are at a disadvantage when we're
20 forced to walk up this big hill in the heat, and
21 then we are just all compliant as we all get out
22 when we get up here. And when we're in here,
23 we're just froze to death. That's because of the
24 amount of air conditioning we have, but we
25 appreciate that as well.

1 So I'm here because I want to speak for
2 God. That's my job, and I know it's fairly
3 audacious, but it's not all that audacious when
4 you stop to think about it. On every bit of our
5 money there's a statement "In God We Trust".
6 Well, the basic problem that God has is that can
7 God trust us?

8 Can God trust organizations that work for
9 labor to speak for God?

10 Can God trust the power industries that
11 are represented here who come to speak on behalf
12 of this petition, can God trust them to do the
13 right thing?

14 And you've talked about all these people
15 who were in here that have mostly come because
16 they have very big eyes. They come because of the
17 thing that they're very concerned about, jobs,
18 that's appropriate; they're concerned about the
19 environment, and that's appropriate; they're
20 concerned about the bottom line, and that's
21 appropriate; but are those things that things that
22 God can trust?

23 That they're speaking on behalf of what
24 keeps us together if God can be experienced as
25 that which brings us together as that which is

1 perfect onement, then are these things that we're
2 talking about today bringing us into onement?

3 Is this going to put us together with the
4 environment?

5 Is he going to put us together as a
6 state?

7 Is he going to put us together as the
8 individuals that live in this state?

9 We have many things to solve, but let's
10 trust in God and then let's have God trust in us.

11 MR. WELLS: Phil Petty.

12 PHIL PETTY: Good afternoon, I'm Phil
13 Petty, I live at 3250 South 20th, Manhattan,
14 Kansas. I'm a pipefitter. I'm a member of Local
15 441, and also an organizer for Plumbers and
16 Pipefitters Local 441.

17 In Overland Park, Monday, I heard a lot
18 of comments that disturbed me involving the jobs
19 pertaining to Holcomb. That the 1,800 jobs were
20 only temporary.

21 That the jobs were 80 years old, not
22 today's jobs.

23 That the jobs won't start until 2016,
24 what good does that do us today?

25 That construction workers should seek out

1 green jobs, not 80 year old jobs.

2 Well, I began my career as a pipefitter
3 in 1976 working on the veterinary medicine
4 hospital at K-State. From there, I moved on to
5 Jeffrey Energy Center. Worked on the coal burner
6 power plant there. Then I went to a water
7 treatment plant in Junction City. Then I went to
8 a hospital in Manhattan. Then a school in
9 Manhattan. Then a tannery in St. Joe, and then a
10 grain alcohol plant in Iowa, and then a refinery
11 in Kansas.

12 I've made a career just like thousands of
13 others, a career out of temporary jobs. This has
14 been a full time career. It's allowed me to
15 remain a resident of Kansas and raise three
16 children. I paid for my home and I'm proud to
17 live in Manhattan, Kansas.

18 We are not just prima donnas that work
19 only on coal burners and love to hurt the
20 environment. We're the same crafts people that
21 work on your schools, your medical gas lines in
22 your hospitals, the equipment that cleans the
23 tools a surgeon uses when he operates on you, we
24 do a little bit of everything.

25 As far as looking for green jobs, the

1 so-called green jobs are not necessarily new to
2 us. My home has had solar domestic water, and it
3 was installed in 1986. That's how long I've had
4 it. I've pursued work in that industry but there
5 has been no demand for it. We wish to work in the
6 so-called green jobs but there isn't any
7 cooperative here looking to invest \$3 billion in
8 the solar industry, or in the wind industry,
9 they're wanting to invest in the coal burning
10 power plant.

11 I would urge you to approve it. The men
12 and women working on that project are the ones
13 that will be trained that would be doing your
14 school work, hospitals, plumbing your homes and
15 all types of work.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: David Mike Ward.

18 DAVID MIKE WARD: My name is David
19 Mike Ward. I live at 419 East Third, Valley
20 Center, Kansas, 67147.

21 As far as the project at Holcomb, Kansas,
22 I believe the KDHE needs to go ahead and approve
23 this project, and create jobs for several members
24 of the Operating Engineers Local that I represent
25 in Wichita, Kansas. We are a local union which

1 represents around 5,000 members in Kansas and
2 Missouri.

3 This project will put a lot of our
4 membership to work and I believe it would be a
5 good thing for Kansas to have it going and I
6 wasn't actually planning on speaking, but I
7 believe this project needs to go ahead and be
8 approved.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. WELLS: Don Johnson.

11 DON JOHNSON: My name's Don Johnson.
12 My address is 7 South State, Emporia, Kansas. I'm
13 a lifetime resident of the area, of the Flint
14 Hills, and I was raised on a farm and you get on a
15 hill on a farm, you can see from miles. We have
16 good clean air, and that air is still in good
17 quality in the Flint Hills.

18 And my dad, he moved to the farm out
19 there in 1940, and he put electricity in for some
20 of the neighbors. That's when electricity come to
21 there, and I was born in '46. I was born and
22 raised there, and we were good stewards of the
23 land, taking care of it and all that, and I think
24 this clean air quality needs to go through so we
25 can build the powerhouse.

1 And thank you guys for listening to me.

2 MR. WELLS: I'm going to call another
3 group of names. Kelly Jacobson, Devin Lowell, Dan
4 McCullouch, Paul Preston, Kerry Stine, Stephanie
5 Cole, Ken Englert, Calvin Startzman, Rob Fillion,
6 and then Wes Campbell, do you want to speak?

7 Kelly Jacobsen, you can begin.

8 KELLY JACOBSEN: My name is Kelly
9 Jacobsen, and I live at 1406 Southwest Eden Court
10 in Topeka, Kansas, 66604.

11 At Monday's public hearing in Overland
12 Park, I delivered comments based on the potential
13 job opportunities that Kansas could reap if we
14 choose to further develop our natural gas and wind
15 resources instead of committing to another 50
16 years of dirty imported coal, as I offer my
17 comments today as an addendum.

18 At 20 years old, I see my future in
19 Kansas as very bright. I have no intention of
20 leaving this state, and some day I might even
21 raise a family here, but if this permit
22 application is approved, my future and the future
23 of my family could be significantly different.

24 On Monday, and again today, I've heard
25 numerous people claim that this coal plant will be

1 the cleanest in the world. Even though I think
2 that statement is completely unfounded, it is
3 important for us all to realize what the reality
4 of any coal plant will be.

5 Recently, a report from the Physicians
6 For Social Responsibility called for the end of
7 construction of new coal plants so as to avoid the
8 health and dangerous emissions of carbon dioxides
9 as well as other criteria pollutants.

10 I have submitted a full version of this
11 study with my comments today, but I'd like to
12 highlight a few statistics now.

13 Not only do nitrous oxide and particulate
14 matter cause an increased number of asthma
15 attacks, but it also suspected that they lead to
16 the development of asthma in the first place.
17 According to the Center For Disease Control,
18 6.7 million children and 16.2 million adults in
19 America have asthma.

20 Particulate matter has also been linked
21 to congestive heart failure. According to the
22 American Heart Association, there are 5.7 million
23 people already living with heart failure and
24 670,000 new cases are diagnosed each year.

25 So even if this is the cleanest coal

1 plant in the country, Kansans will be at increased
2 risk for asthma and heart disease, as well as lung
3 disease, stroke, cancer, emphysema and chronic
4 bronchitis.

5 When we don't really need it for energy,
6 and when there are other ways to create good jobs
7 in the region and statewide, we must ask, is this
8 coal plant really worth our health?

9 Thank you for your time.

10 MR. WELLS: Devin Lowell.

11 DEVIN LOWELL: My name's Devin
12 Lowell. I reside at 604 East 12th, Concordia,
13 Kansas, 66901.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide
15 comment today. I'm a fifth generation Kansan. I
16 was born and raised right here in North Central
17 Kansas, just like my father and my grandfather and
18 great grandfather before me.

19 I say this so you understand my
20 opposition to the construction of the proposed
21 Holcomb coal plant comes from the deepest concern
22 about this state's future. Ahead of us there lie
23 two paths. The one that Sunflower Electric would
24 have us follow is full of dirty air and empty
25 promises. They would have us believe that the

1 jobs and electricity generated by building their
2 polluting coal plant is the only way forward for
3 this state. But these companies' proven records
4 of deception and mismanagement should have us all
5 skeptical about that.

6 There exists another path, another way
7 forward. We can, as a state, deny the permit for
8 the Holcomb plant and instead choose to develop
9 our own clean home-grown energy resources.

10 A wind turbine, like the dozens of them
11 that line U.S. Highway 81 between here and my home
12 town of Concordia, generate electricity without
13 spewing anything in the air. Coal plants,
14 however, fill the air with things like particulate
15 emissions, which have been strongly linked to
16 heart disease, lung cancer, and childhood asthma,
17 Mercury, also released during the burning of coal,
18 is sure to poison the soil and groundwater around
19 the new plant.

20 Even if this is one of the most
21 state-of-the-art coal plants built, these
22 emissions are not controlled by even a plant like
23 this one.

24 We all know that Kansas, like much of the
25 rest of the country, is suffering through a period

1 of economic hardships. Many Kansans are out of
2 work and unable to find jobs, but allowing
3 Sunflower this permit is not the way to create
4 jobs for those Kansans.

5 By Sunflower's own estimate, construction
6 of the proposed plant won't begin until at least
7 2016, and while I appreciate the thousands of
8 construction jobs that that'll create and the
9 anywhere between 50 and 88 we've heard permanent
10 operations jobs it creates, that same \$3 billion
11 that's being invested in that coal plant if it
12 were invested in the manufacturing and building of
13 wind turbines and wind farms would create even
14 more tens of thousands of jobs rather than the few
15 numbers that we've heard here.

16 In the following years, even more could
17 be created in manufacturing sectors necessary to
18 support wind, natural gas, solar and biomass
19 energy generation.

20 We've already seen signs of this. Think
21 of all the wind farms that have sprung up in the
22 last couple years of Kansas. The construction
23 takes mere months while the Holcomb plant won't be
24 finished for four years.

25 Think of the new Siemens wind turbine

1 plant in Hutchinson and all the people it will
2 employ.

3 So this is our choice. Kansas can either
4 side with Sunflower and build the unneeded and
5 unwanted polluting coal plant or it can side with
6 those of us who would like to choose a clean
7 energy future.

8 I oppose the Holcomb coal plant and
9 respectfully request that the KDHE deny
10 Sunflower's permit request.

11 Thank you for your work for protecting
12 Kansas' future and thank you again for the
13 opportunity to provide comment.

14 MR. WELLS: Dan McCulloch.

15 DAN MCCULLOCH: Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak. It's been a long afternoon
17 for you people up here, I imagine, but I'm Dan
18 McCulloch, 5241 Northeast Shaffer Road in Topeka,
19 Kansas.

20 I installed the first low NOx system at
21 Jeffrey's Energy Plant. I also teach a 441
22 school, products combustion. You would not
23 believe the systems that they are coming out with
24 now in coal plants. I was really impressed, the
25 CO emissions are cut down, the CO2, from

1 controlling coal burning along with air mixture to
2 these plants and along with scrubbers remove the
3 ash and everything else. The products of
4 combustion that you're releasing from the coal
5 plants now is unbelievably staggering.

6 I've heard a lot of different points of
7 what the emissions have come out with. This was
8 in the past. The new coal plants now that they
9 are generating are a lot more efficient. They're
10 going more green. You talk about green. That's
11 what these coal plants are doing, they're going
12 green, and seeing what the data that I saw of the
13 CO emissions that the first one we put on unit one
14 at Jeffrey Energy Plant was amazing, and approve
15 of this going through.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. WELLS: Paul Preston.

18 PAUL PRESTON: Thank you, sir. My
19 name is Paul Preston. I live at 413 Sharon Lane,
20 Mulvane, Kansas, 67110.

21 I just have a few words to ask you to
22 approve the air permit for Holcomb. I know it
23 will supply a lot of jobs for my brothers. I'm
24 also a member of Local 441, Pipefitters. I'm also
25 an instructor. I teach welding and pipefitting.

1 I realize there's got to be a balance
2 between work and environment, and I think that the
3 people at Sunflower have addressed this. The data
4 that I've seen, they're trying everything they can
5 to mitigate the CO2 carbon. Plus, with the dairy
6 farm and everything they've got, the biomass,
7 they're trying everything they can.

8 They're supplying \$3 billion into our
9 economy to do this, and they're trying to do the
10 very best they can and balance it.

11 I would like to see that happen. I would
12 also like to see somebody else with \$3 billion
13 come for biomass, and \$3 billion for wind energy.
14 I'm all for it. Bring it on.

15 But also know that when it comes to a
16 market economy, several places in the nation I've
17 seen wind turbines, and I've seen wind turbines
18 stop and I've asked the people why, who live
19 around there, who know.

20 Well, in Highmore, South Dakota, rows and
21 rows of wind turbines are controlled out of a
22 Florida powerhouse. That electricity goes on the
23 grid, they sell it in New Jersey or whoever needs
24 it.

25 Yes, some electric may go to Colorado or

1 wherever, that's what business is about. I'm not
2 naive. I understand. I want good healthy air for
3 my children, too, and my children's children, but
4 weighing the pros and the cons, I believe you
5 should approve the air permit for Holcomb.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MR. WELLS: Kerry Stine.

8 KERRY STINE: Hello, my name is Kerry
9 Stine. I'm the training director for Plumbers and
10 Pipefitters apprenticeship training in Kansas. I
11 reside at 717 South Sierra Hills Street in
12 Wichita, Kansas 67230.

13 Specifically, what I'd like to address
14 today are two words. The first is "opportunity",
15 and the second is "responsibility".

16 In regards to opportunity, apprenticeship
17 programs, specifically those of the building trade
18 unions and the building trades across the country
19 provide opportunity through apprenticeship
20 programs that many times in rural areas, those
21 opportunities are not available.

22 With this plant going forward, we are
23 currently, through the Plumbers and Pipefitters
24 apprenticeship program, modifying our training
25 program specifically so that we can incorporate

1 those in the western part of the state into our
2 training program, and you may say, yeah, we're
3 just doing that so we can get that training money
4 coming in, but the reality is, the cost to
5 apprentices is very minimal for what they learn
6 for the careers that they gain through
7 apprenticeship.

8 Our apprentices pay only \$330 a year,
9 that is a book and material fee. All the rest of
10 their training fees are borne by the membership of
11 Local 441, and so it is an opportunity for those
12 in Western Kansas to gain careers that last a
13 lifetime, that provide them the ability to raise a
14 family, to have a good lifestyle, and we intend,
15 as Local 441 and its apprenticeship training
16 program, to assist those in the western part of
17 the state through apprenticeship training.

18 The other word that I wanted to speak to
19 was "responsibility", and that responsibility that
20 lies with KDHE. Its responsibility to sift
21 through the facts that are presented, both pro and
22 con, its responsibility to ignore the emotion on
23 both sides of the aisle on this, and ultimately,
24 KDHE's responsibility to look at this, address it
25 from a standpoint of does this permit -- request

1 for permit meet the guidelines set forth by the
2 Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and
3 also federal EPA guidelines, and if it does, it is
4 your responsibility to pass this permit.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. WELLS: Stephanie Cole.

7 STEPHANIE COLE: My name is Stephanie
8 Cole. My address is 11925 West 109th Street, No.
9 209, and that's in Overland Park, Kansas, I'm with
10 the Kansas Sierra Club, and I had the opportunity
11 to speak in Overland Park so I don't want to take
12 too much time today, but I do want to respond to a
13 few comments made today. Much has been said about
14 the need for this coal plant, so I have a few
15 comments in regard to those statements.

16 This coal plant would be primarily owned
17 by a Colorado coop, Tri-State. They would own
18 695 megawatts of the coal plant. The same coop
19 recently went through a resource planning to
20 determine their long-term resource needs, so
21 Tri-State modeled 22 scenarios, and of those 22,
22 only one shows a need for new coal capacity and
23 that's a need of 302 megawatts in the year 2026,
24 not an immediate need for almost 900 megawatts of
25 fuel coal.

1 This same coop has publicly stated that
2 the board of directors have made no time
3 constraints on the project and when asked why
4 they're still continuing to pursue the permit,
5 they stated that it's to keep the option of the
6 project open.

7 My concern is that Kansas is spending a
8 lot of time and resources to keep options open for
9 a Colorado coop.

10 Many members have spoken today in support
11 of the project and they're excited about the
12 prospect of jobs that it may bring and I think
13 they deserve answers, too. They need to know if
14 Tri-State is serious about building this coal
15 plant or not.

16 So in closing, I would request two
17 things, and that's that Tri-State provide
18 documentation that there is a near term need for
19 this coal plant, and secondly, that there's a
20 concrete plan in place to construct it if they
21 should be issued a permit.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: Ken Englert.

24 KEN ENGLERT: My name is Ken Englert.

25 I live at 3113 West Bayview, Wichita, Kansas,

1 67214.

2 I'm the assistant training director for
3 the Plumbers and Pipefitters apprenticeship of
4 Kansas.

5 If granted the proper permits, the
6 Holcomb station will be built and held accountable
7 for the most current state and federal standards.
8 They'll also be using the most high skilled
9 trained work force in the world. Technology will
10 be used to meet or exceed these standards.

11 With the current state of our economy and
12 the future needs of power, how can we turn down an
13 employer who wants to invest in our state. Our
14 neighbors here in Salina know well enough what it
15 means to have their job either disposed of or sent
16 out of state.

17 Further complaints that they will not use
18 very many permanent jobs. A four year job for at
19 least 1,600 craftsman does not explain a temporary
20 job. That is a permanent job for at least four
21 years. That's a highly paid job where millions of
22 dollars would be left in the surrounding
23 communities. Studies have shown that that money
24 would be turned over in those communities many
25 times.

1 The vast majority of the people in
2 western Kansas are accepting this project with
3 open arms. This power is sent out of state so why
4 is this plant needed?

5 Can we say the same thing about the
6 cattle industry, the oil -- gas and oil
7 production, the aircraft industry and most
8 important, our farmers. Each one of these add to
9 the pollution of our environment. Kansans feed,
10 energize and help transport the world.

11 We have too many employers shutting down
12 businesses in Kansas or shipping the jobs to other
13 countries. When are we going to do something
14 about that?

15 As a concerned citizen, a taxpayer, I
16 urge you to issue the permit for this project.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WELLS: Calvin Startzman.

19 CALVIN STARTZMAN: My name's Calvin
20 Startzman, 725 North Arapaho, Wichita, Kansas.
21 I'm also a trainer for Local 441. I believe this
22 Holcomb powerhouse needs to happen. We can look
23 at this Clean Air Act, I think this is the best
24 clean air, it's a positive way to go. I'd rather
25 see this powerhouse go up and everything and work

1 come through than drive down the highway and look
2 at thousands and thousands of windmills. I don't
3 know about you guys, but I like looking at the
4 scenery going down the road, not windmills.
5 There's nothing wrong with the windmills, but I
6 don't want to see them overcome the country.

7 I think it needs to be built.

8 MR. WELLS: Rob Fillion.

9 Rob Fillion.

10 We have about eight more people who want
11 to present comments. Those of you, we have about
12 15 minutes before 5:00, we'll try to get you in as
13 soon as we can, or within 5 o'clock.

14 I would encourage you, if you have new
15 information to present, that would be great.
16 Otherwise, if it's something that we've already
17 heard, I'm not going to prevent you from restating
18 it, but in the interest of trying to be done by
19 5:00, any new information would be appreciated.

20 The last group of names I'll call is Ed
21 Viar, hope that's right, Chris Cardinal, Wes
22 Jackson, Perry Rinert, Earl Watkins, Cullen West,
23 and Gene Sicard.

24 Ed Viar.

25 Ed, are you here?

1 V-I-A-R is the last time.

2 Chris Cardinal.

3 Perry Rinert?

4 PERRY RUBART: My name is Perry
5 Rubart. My penmanship is not very good, sorry,
6 sir.

7 I appreciate the opportunity to testify
8 today in support of this project. I live at 921
9 north Sullivan, Ulysses, Kansas. I've served on
10 the Pioneer Board for 27 years. I've served on
11 the Sunflower Board for 27 years, and one of the
12 past chairman. Also represented the National
13 Rural Association for the State of Kansas for 11
14 years.

15 When I went on the board at Pioneer 27
16 years ago, we had 60 irrigation wells on
17 electricity. We have now over 600 wells on
18 electricity.

19 We had no natural gas plants on
20 electricity. Today, we have four natural gas
21 processing plants totally run by electricity.

22 We had no gas compressors on electricity,
23 but due to the reduction in the Hugoton Gas Field,
24 the low pressures there, they've had to put in
25 many compressors. We have hundreds of compressors

1 that are supplied by electricity.

2 Our need is baseload generation, and I
3 hear today a lot about wind and I hear a lot about
4 solar, but there's a reason why those two are not
5 classified as baseload generation.

6 Baseload generation is generation that
7 people need 24/7, 365 days a year, and we have
8 considered many options at Sunflower, considered
9 some of those things that have been suggested
10 today, and we're using some of those things, but
11 we still have need for that baseload generation,
12 and I would urge you to support this project and
13 let us build that.

14 Those of us who want to live and prosper
15 in Western and Central Kansas need this power.

16 Thank you very much for your attention.

17 MR. WELLS: Sir, would you state your
18 last name, please, so I have it right in the
19 record.

20 PERRY RUBART: My name is Perry
21 Rubart. That last name is spelled R-U-B-A-R-T.

22 Sorry for the penmanship.

23 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

24 Earl Watkins.

25 EARL WATKINS: Thank you for your

1 time. I'm Earl Watkins. I'm the President and
2 CEO of Sunflower, I spoke with you in Johnson
3 County as well.

4 There's a couple of items that I would
5 like to touch on that I heard both there and a
6 little bit here today.

7 First of all, it seems as though there's
8 some who believe that this project is just chasing
9 the almighty dollar, the ugly profit word, so to
10 speak.

11 In the first place, I think in this
12 country, of course, profit in the capitalistic
13 structure is what's built the greatest way of life
14 and living that the history of mankind has ever
15 known, so I'm not here to down capitalism or the
16 profit motive, but the fact of the matter is,
17 there is no profit motive with respect to the
18 participants in this project. Sunflower is a
19 not-for-profit generation and transmission
20 cooperative owned by six nonprofit distribution
21 cooperatives who are owned by the customers they
22 serve.

23 Tri-State is a nonprofit generation and
24 transmission cooperative out of Colorado owned by
25 the distribution coops who are nonprofit that they

1 serve.

2 Golden Spread is the same thing out of
3 the panhandle of Texas. Midwest Energy is a
4 distribution coop in Kansas, that may participate
5 in this project, is a nonprofit coop owned by the
6 consumers.

7 There's nine municipalities that may
8 participate in this project. They are also
9 not-for-profit.

10 So profit is not a motive driven here.
11 What's driven here is our mission for reliable
12 energy at the lowest possible cost consistent with
13 sound business practices, and we can't do any more
14 than comply with known rules and regulations.
15 That's all we can do. And it seems that that
16 ought to be adequate to issue this permit to allow
17 American business to go forward.

18 On the issue of wind, as I've told you
19 before, we have a large component of wind in our
20 system. Some 325 towers we've taken an undivided
21 interest off of, both along 70 and down in
22 southwest Kansas.

23 Fact of the matter is on Monday, we set a
24 new system peak of 1100 megawatts. Out of our
25 125 megawatts of wind across the state, we got

1 50 megawatts. 50 out of 125, to contribute
2 towards 1,100 needed. Yesterday, same hour, we
3 got 4.

4 Now, wind is important, yes, it is. But
5 I would like to ask the people in here who would
6 not like to have electricity yesterday from
7 6:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. because the wind wasn't
8 blowing.

9 How would you like to power your
10 hospitals, your schools, your businesses, your
11 homes, everything that you do on the basis that
12 the wind is not blowing.

13 So is wind important? Absolutely, it is.

14 Is it the answer to all of mankind? No,
15 it is not.

16 Is coal the answer for everything? No,
17 it's not.

18 Is biomass the answer for everything?

19 No, it's not.

20 In fact, all those things put together
21 for a vital utility industry that has a generation
22 portfolio that is mixed is the right answer for
23 the people who own us, and that's the reason we're
24 continuing to press this project and ask for your
25 approval.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. WELLS: Wes Jackson.

3 Cullen West.

4 CULLEN WEST: Last name is West.

5 Cullen West, I'm a communications director for the
6 American Coalition For Clean Coal Electricity in
7 the Midwest region.

8 Thank you for allowing me to give
9 comments. The American Coalition For Clean Coal
10 Electricity, otherwise known as ACCCE, is a
11 national nonprofit organization comprised of major
12 coal producers, railroads, and other
13 transportation companies, investor-owned
14 utilities, rural electric cooperatives, and
15 companies that supply the coal-based electricity
16 industry. ACCCE advocates public policies that
17 advance environmental improvement, economic
18 prosperity, and energy security. Our organization
19 believes that the use of coal, America's most
20 abundant domestically-produced energy resource, is
21 essential to providing affordable, reliable
22 electricity for millions of U.S. consumers and a
23 growing domestic economy. Further, ACCCE is
24 committed to continued and enhanced U.S.
25 leadership in developing and deploying new,

1 advanced coal technologies that protect the
2 environment.

3 ACCCE strongly supports the expansion of
4 the Holcomb coal-fueled power plant in Kansas
5 because it balances the needs of the State of
6 Kansas and the entire nation for affordable,
7 reliable electricity that will enhance economic
8 prosperity, provide greater energy security for
9 the United States, and meet our goals for a
10 cleaner environment. Coal has been, and remains,
11 "America's fuel" for many reasons.

12 First, coal is essential. Over the past
13 decade, coal has been responsible for providing
14 roughly half the electricity used by U.S.
15 consumers and about 70 percent of the electricity
16 used in Kansas.

17 Second, coal is abundant. America has
18 more energy in its coal reserves than the entire
19 Middle East has its oil. At our current rate of
20 consumption, coal is capable of meeting domestic
21 demand for more than 200 years.

22 And third, electricity from coal is
23 affordable. And that's vital at a time when
24 millions of American families are reeling from the
25 worst economic downturn since the depression. As

1 a result of its reliance on coal for electric
2 generation, Kansas enjoys the 12th lowest
3 electricity rates in the nation.

4 Additionally, coal gives states a
5 competitive advantage in attracting and retaining
6 businesses by keeping electricity costs low.
7 Generally, states that rely on coal have the
8 lowest electricity rates. In 2008, 34 states had
9 electricity rates below the national retail
10 average of \$9.74 per kilowatt hour. Coal was
11 responsible for 50 percent or more of the
12 electricity generated in 23 of those states. Five
13 of the seven states with the lowest electricity
14 rates used to generate more than 80 percent of the
15 power came from coal. Those are Kentucky, North
16 Dakota, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

17 I'm sorry, I'm getting a little
18 longwinded here, I have a lot of important
19 information to deliver.

20 Coal not only helps to keep electricity
21 prices affordable, it keeps electricity prices
22 relatively stable. Over the most recent 19 year
23 period, from 1989 to 2008, on a national basis,
24 average annual coal prices have varied modestly.
25 The price of other fossil fuels is much more

1 volatile.

2 New coal plants built today using
3 state-of-the-art technology offer improved
4 environmental performance both in terms of
5 efficiency and emission reduction. According to
6 the EPA and other sources, coal-fueled power
7 plants are capable of reducing up to 98 percent of
8 sulfur dioxide emissions and 90 percent of
9 nitrogen dioxide emissions.

10 I can go, there's a lot more technical
11 information in here. I'll leave you the letter.
12 I've come to the end of my time here.

13 I just want to add coal is vital to
14 America's energy future, and the Holcomb station
15 is vital to Kansas and the region. The benefits
16 of this endeavor will be felt by Kansans for years
17 to come. We strongly encourage the Kansas
18 Department of Health and Environment to issue the
19 final air permit for the Holcomb Expansion
20 Project.

21 Sincerely, Cullen West, Communications
22 Director, ACCCE.

23 MR. WELLS: Gene Sicard.

24 Hope I said that right.

25 GENE SICARD: Yeah, pretty close. My

1 name is Gene Sicard. I'm from Concordia, Kansas,
2 1571 Union Road. I am the assistant business
3 manager for IBEW, International Brotherhood of
4 Electrical Workers Local 304.

5 I want to talk a little bit about some of
6 those things. I know the importance of wind power
7 being from Concordia, and I heard somebody else
8 talk about the wind towers along there. I support
9 wind power just as much as the next guy.

10 When I was growing up, I used to go to
11 the lake, as I'm sure everybody here maybe has or
12 has been to. When you go to the lake, it's around
13 morning time or the afternoon, late afternoon,
14 early evening, that's because the water's nice and
15 calm, means the wind's not blowing. That's also
16 the time everybody gets off work to go home to
17 cook for their kids or start turning lights on at
18 the end of the day. That's when you need the
19 power is at the end of the day, and if the wind's
20 not blowing, that's why I go to the lake, I don't
21 have any power. I don't know about you guys, but
22 I want -- I'm pretty selfish, I want power most
23 days. I really like that. I've become accustomed
24 to it, it's a necessity.

25 1957 when the Chevrolet come out, it was

1 kind of a belcher of emissions, and they didn't
2 stop production on that. They revised and they
3 got better, cleaner emissions with the 2011
4 Chevy's. They've got a lot better technology than
5 the old.

6 Same process here. Going forward, not
7 stagnating. I want to talk a little bit about the
8 turbines. I've heard people talking, why don't we
9 just build a manufacturing plant and then we can
10 make wind turbine blades. Sounds like a great
11 idea, but before you do that, how are you going to
12 power that plant to build the blades to have your
13 clean power tomorrow or cleaner power, I should
14 say.

15 I get it, but we need to know what comes
16 first here. The baseload, or the auxiliary --
17 secondary load, excuse me.

18 I've heard talk of a few jobs, is it 55,
19 is it 80?

20 Let's say it's 80 jobs. Is that enough?
21 It's not just 80 jobs, that's 80 families. Not
22 just 80 people, 80 families, so I just wanted to
23 talk a little about that and show my support and I
24 urge you to support this plant.

25 Thanks.

1 MR. WELLS: That was the last name
2 that we have on the registration forms of people
3 who desired to present comments at this session.

4 And the time is now 5 o'clock p.m. As
5 stated in the public notice, this hearing will now
6 go into recess and reconvene at 6:30 p.m.

7 If anyone did not get an opportunity to
8 present comments at this session, you will be
9 given an opportunity in the later session, or you
10 can submit written comments as previously stated.

11 This concludes the public presentation of
12 comments during the first session of today's
13 hearing.

14 I would like to inform you that the
15 public comment period will remain open through
16 August 15th, 2010. Individuals who wish to submit
17 written comments may do so by mailing their
18 statements to the following address: Kansas
19 Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of
20 Air, Attention, Sunflower Comments, 1000 Southwest
21 Jackson Street, Suite 310, Topeka, Kansas,
22 66612-1366.

23 You can also submit written comments via
24 e-mail to Sunflowercomments, which is all one
25 word, at KDHEKS.gov. Again, in order for your

1 comments to be considered, they must be postmarked
2 or received on or before August 15th, 2010.

3 I would like to express my appreciation
4 to all of you who took time to participate in this
5 early session.

6 This hearing will now go into recess
7 until 6:30 p.m. this evening. The hearing will
8 reconvene at that time.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
SALINE COUNTY)

I, Donna M. Lytle, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of
Kansas, certify that the foregoing is a full and
correct transcript of all of the oral evidence and
oral proceedings had in this matter at the
aforementioned time and place.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and official seal at Salina, Saline
County, Kansas this _____ day of _____,
2010.

Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR
234 N. 7th Street, Suite E
Salina, Kansas 67401

1 KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
2 DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT
3 PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A
4 DRAFT AIR EMISSION SOURCE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT TO
5 SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION
6
7
8

9 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2010

10 6:30 P.M.

11 Highway Patrol Training Center

12 2025 E. Iron Avenue

13 Salina, Kansas
14
15

16 HEARING OFFICER:

17 Mr. Dan Wells
18 District Environmental Administrator
19 Northwest District Office
20 Bureau of Environmental Field Services
21 2301 East 13th Street
22 Hays, Kansas 67601-2651

23 COURT REPORTER:

24 Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR
25 234 N. Seventh, Suite E
Salina, Kansas 67401

1 MR. WELLS: Good evening. The time
2 is 6:30 p.m., and I am reconvening this hearing
3 which began at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. My name
4 is Dan Wells. The Secretary of Health and
5 Environment, Roderick Bremby, has appointed me to
6 act as hearing officer and his representative to
7 receive and consider testimony relevant to today's
8 proceedings.

9 The issue under consideration at this
10 hearing is the proposed issuance of an Air
11 Emission Source Construction Permit to Sunflower
12 Electric Power Corporation which, if issued, would
13 allow construction of one new 895-megawatt
14 coal-fired steam generating unit and associated
15 ancillary equipment at the company's facilities
16 located at 2440 Holcomb Lane, Holcomb, Kansas.

17 As you entered this room, you were asked
18 to register your attendance and to indicate
19 whether you desired to give testimony concerning
20 the proposed permit. From those forms, a list of
21 participants will be compiled. If you're here as
22 part of a large group in which many of the members
23 will be making the same or similar comments, I
24 encourage to formulate the comments into one
25 presentation. Following my remarks, a

1 representative of the department's Bureau of Air,
2 Mr. Rick Brunetti, will provide brief comments
3 regarding the draft permit.

4 Following his presentation, those of you
5 who have indicated a desire to present testimony
6 will be called on to present comments.

7 This hearing is being recorded for an
8 official record of today's proceedings. Because
9 of the large number of attendees that have
10 indicated a desire to present oral comments, I
11 will impose the following rules:

12 All presentations must be made at the
13 microphone.

14 You must begin your presentation by
15 stating your name, address, and who you are
16 affiliated with.

17 Each presenter will only be given three
18 minutes to give their presentation. A timer will
19 be used and at the end of your allotted time, I
20 will ask you to conclude your comments.

21 Any unused time by a presenter cannot be
22 given to another presenter.

23 If your name is called and you desire to
24 provide oral comments, you must do so at that
25 time. You will not be allowed to defer your

1 presentation to a later time in the hearing.

2 I will only accept comments that are in
3 regard to the proposed permit. I encourage all
4 speakers to avoid echoing comments previously made
5 during the hearing.

6 Please be courteous and allow other
7 presenters to give their comments without any
8 interruption.

9 Finally, anyone disrupting these
10 proceedings will be required to leave the hearing.

11 At this time I will call upon
12 Mr. Brunetti to provide some brief comments
13 regarding the draft permit.

14 Mr. Brunetti.

15 MR. BRUNETTI: Thank you, Dan. I am
16 Rick Brunetti. I am the Director of Bureau of Air
17 with Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

18 Last week, it was determined by federal
19 and state officials that the meteorological data
20 that Sunflower Electric used were not adjusted for
21 differences in time zones prior to input into the
22 dispersion model. The model results simulate how
23 the plant will impact ambient air in the
24 surrounding areas.

25 Sunflower has been advised this portion

1 of the permit application will need to be revised
2 and resubmitted.

3 KDHE is committed to a public process
4 which will include a separate comment period on
5 the modeling data, once submitted and reviewed.
6 KDHE will issue an additional public notice
7 subsequent to review of the modeling data and
8 conduct one public hearing to receive comments on
9 the new modeling data and the draft permit.
10 Details on the second comment period and final
11 hearing will be announced at a later date.

12 During the second public comment
13 process -- pardon, comment process, all aspects of
14 the Sunflower PSD permit will be opened to
15 comment.

16 In the interest of time, I will foregoing
17 my extended comments regarding the permit and
18 refer everyone to my comments from earlier today
19 prior to adjourn -- prior to dismissal of the
20 meeting, so at this point, we want to get as many
21 comments in from the public as possible so I will
22 turn it back over to Mr. Wells, the hearing
23 officer.

24 MR. WELLS: Thank you. We have now
25 come to the point in the second session of today's

1 hearing where we will receive comments from the
2 public.

3 As stated earlier, each presenter will
4 only be given three minutes to give their
5 testimony. Our timekeeper, who is down here in
6 front, Jennifer, raise your hand, will display
7 signs notifying you of the amount of time you have
8 left in your presentation. At the end of the
9 three minutes, you must conclude your comments.
10 Please feel free to present any comments
11 specifically related to the draft permit that you
12 would like to have considered.

13 I will begin calling -- by calling upon
14 those individuals who indicated their desire to
15 present comments on the registration forms.

16 It is the intention of KDHE to provide
17 adequate time for all witnesses to provide
18 testimony. If a witness feels they were unable to
19 complete their comments during their testimony,
20 written comments will be accepted through August
21 15th, 2010.

22 It would be appreciated if you would
23 provide a written copy of your testimony, if
24 available, to me.

25 I will call off a group of names. When

1 you're name is called, please come to the front of
2 the auditorium, where we have a row of seats
3 reserved. I will then call off your name when it
4 is your turn to speak.

5 The first group of names is Wes Jackson,
6 Scott Allegrucci, Bob Bowser, Ellie Skokan, Yvonne
7 Cather, I hope I said that right, and Bill Wentz.

8 Mr. Jackson, if you're ready, you can
9 proceed.

10 WES JACKSON: Thank you,
11 distinguished panel. My name is Wes Jackson. I
12 live at 2400 East Water Well Road, Salina, Kansas,
13 and I'm representing myself.

14 I believe that this moment in history,
15 this few decades, is more important even than our
16 walk out of Africa given what we've been able to
17 do in burning fossil carbon.

18 Nature Magazine is a scientific journal,
19 and because of its rigger, it's one of the two
20 most prestigious journals in the world. The Royal
21 Society, Members of the United Kingdom, have been
22 intertwined with it from early on. The other is
23 Science, published by the American Association For
24 the Advancement of Science, and here's the point:
25 Both Nature and Science agree with the conclusions

1 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
2 consisting of some 2,000 climate scientists picked
3 because of their reputations based on their
4 publications of results in refereed journals.

5 The Royal Society, representing the early
6 stages of modern science, is 350 years old this
7 year. It was established based on the early
8 thinking of those scientists who laid down the
9 rules for scientific inquiry, and all the great
10 names in science back to Sir Isaac Newton,
11 Lavoisier, Mendel, Einstein, Watson, Crick, had to
12 meet its standards.

13 During the past 350 years, most of the
14 news about advancement in science have improved
15 our comfort and lengthened our lives. Societies
16 everywhere have embraced the results of the
17 scientific revolution. So whether we're launching
18 a space program or exploring for oil, it has been
19 the scientific discoveries and technological
20 follow-up that have made it possible.

21 The scientific-technological-economic
22 world is the one we live in, and the Royal Society
23 and our National Academy have been at the
24 forefront advancing our so-called progress.

25 Suddenly, the very scientific bodies that

1 have given us the good news are ignored.

2 Economics -- given us the bad news are ignored.

3 Economics rules. The scientific values
4 that have formerly given us essentially only good
5 news. Now when we get bad news, they're ignored.

6 Economics rules, and in the July 22
7 issue, of this year, of Nature, we read of a
8 report on global warming from our own U.S.
9 National Research Council which sets out the
10 consequences of climate change. It includes steam
11 flow and wild flowers -- wild fires, crop
12 productivity and so on.

13 There's -- the report shows that
14 one degree of sea warming will reduce rain in the
15 southwest, the Mediterranean and South Africa 5 to
16 10 percent, and so on. A lot of ain't-it-awful
17 stuff in there.

18 So the article concludes that there's
19 going to be changes that are going to last into
20 millennium, not just hundreds of years.

21 So jobs, yes, but let's be more creative
22 and quit ignoring the news from a sector of
23 society with its long history of good news, the
24 scientific community.

25 MR. WELLS: Mr. Jackson, your time

1 has expired.

2 Did you conclude your comments?

3 WES JACKSON: I'm done.

4 MR. WELLS: Okay, thank you.

5 Scott Allegrucci.

6 SCOTT ALLEGRUCCI: Thank you, again,
7 for the opportunity to speak. My name is Scott
8 Allegrucci. I'm the director of Great Plains
9 Alliance for Cleaner Energy located 220 Southwest
10 33rd Street, Topeka, Kansas, 66611.

11 I offered comments for the record in
12 Overland Park and I'm offering comments tonight
13 only in response to questions raised and previous
14 comments about that information offered at
15 Overland Park.

16 All of this info is a matter of public
17 record and any previously mentioned info to my
18 comments in Overland Park were submitted as part
19 of the written documentation, with sources listed,
20 but in response to the question -- previous
21 questions about the 2016 construction start date
22 that we had mentioned, Fitch Credit Rating in the
23 Forbes Magazine online issue of May 27, 2010,
24 provides preparation of an article on Tri-State
25 generation transmission, and Tri-State, of course,

1 is the primary energy of the proposed coal plant
2 project.

3 And in that article, at
4 www.forbes.com/2010/05/27/2010, Tri-State indicates the
5 soonest it can anticipate constructing starting on
6 the Holcomb Unit 2 is 2016, if it's permitted.

7 Just as a reminder, Sunflower Electric
8 abandoned the coal permit once Tri-State issued a
9 RTF for 500 megawatts of coal-baseload electricity
10 in 2004-2005.

11 Between that time and 2009, Tri-State G&T
12 of Colorado has provided at least 50 million
13 dollars according to their 2009 annual report to
14 advance this project in Kansas.

15 There are also public statements
16 regarding a longer timeline for construction in
17 terms of Tri-State's expectations that these
18 statements made by Tri-State staff and officials
19 are part of the public record of their public
20 resource planning process which has been ongoing
21 in Colorado, and records of all of those meetings
22 and presentations from all of those meetings are
23 available at Tri-State's web site, under their
24 public resource planning pull down on the web
25 site, so those are the sources for the information

1 previously mentioned.

2 I just wanted to add those to the record
3 in response to previous comments.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. WELLS: Bob Bowser.

6 BOB BOWSER: Thanks for this
7 opportunity. I'm Bob Bowser, I live here in
8 Salina at 129 North College. I'm a Kansas
9 citizen, and I'm also a Westar customer.

10 Policy decisions impacting energy sources
11 must support basic reliability, affordability and
12 supply necessary for generating electricity. The
13 exploding rate and scale of growth in energy
14 demand is not fully provided for in new energy
15 policies.

16 Environmental policy should enhance but
17 not supercede fundamental need for a safe, secure
18 source of cost efficient energy.

19 Without coal as a fuel source, sufficient
20 electric generation could not meet -- to meet the
21 future Kansas, national, and global demand is not
22 a given.

23 Often wrongly accused of being a source
24 of air pollution and greenhouse gases, coal
25 remains necessary for current and future electric

1 generation in Kansas and the U.S.

2 In the United States, we have advanced
3 emission control technology that's drastically
4 reduced the negative environmental consequence of
5 coal-fired generation.

6 The new generation of technology being
7 developed promises an even brighter future for
8 clean coal-fired electricity.

9 Due to the incessant scandal regarding
10 global warming, data produced by proponents of
11 such a flawed theory cannot be trusted nor heeded.

12 Global warming is nothing more than a
13 theory with no tangible evidence, tainted by
14 altered statistics and fraudulent supporters who
15 have cost this nation and taxpayers millions of
16 dollars for the benefit of a handful of a few
17 financial and unethical opportunists.

18 As citizens of this planet, we're
19 commissioned to be good stewards to the natural
20 resources that we've been entrusted with and are
21 being good stewards through the use of all
22 available natural resources, including coal, to
23 produce clean, reliable electricity for our
24 population.

25 This stewardship should also include

1 financial prudence which would cause us to all
2 take note of the positive economics of clean coal
3 use, and should cause us to deny the proponents of
4 global warming any more credibility.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. WELLS: Ellie Skokan; is that
7 correct?

8 ELLIE SKOKAN: Yes, sir. I'm Ellie
9 Skokan. I live at 5825 Memphis in Wichita, and
10 I'm here tonight to ask you to deny the air
11 quality construction permit application submitted
12 by Sunflower Electric Power Corporation, and I ask
13 you to do so on the following basis: The mining,
14 transportation, washing, combustion and waste
15 disposal of the coal used in this plant will
16 increase the risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke
17 and lung disease, not only in Kansas, but in other
18 states, and in the global community.

19 The burning of coal is an inefficient use
20 of this country's scant resources.

21 The power produced by this plant is not
22 needed due to decreased demand and more efficient
23 use of electricity.

24 The local economic impact will be limited
25 since most construction jobs will not be filled by

1 local people and only a few permanent jobs will be
2 created.

3 The water used by this plant will further
4 deplete the Ogallala aquifer and lead to increased
5 drought as global warming becomes more severe.

6 The costs of upcoming carbon regulation
7 have not been calculated into the projection costs
8 of the project and will result in ratepayers being
9 saddled with high utility rates.

10 The technology proposed for this plant is
11 neither state-of-the-art nor best available
12 controlled technology.

13 In summary, this plant's neither needed
14 nor wanted by Kansas citizens. Please protect our
15 human health and environment by denying the
16 permit.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WELLS: Yvonne Cather.

19 YVONNE CATHER: Good evening, my name
20 is Yvonne Cather, I'm the current Vice Chair for
21 the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I'm
22 here this evening to talk to you about the impact
23 of coal on human health and environment.

24 I want to make sure that you understand
25 that we're asking you to deny the air permit and

1 I'm sure that there's more than one Sierra person
2 that spoke at these hearings, so I'll try not to
3 repeat the same things.

4 But how does coal affect the human
5 health?

6 One thing I want to point out is that the
7 human health and the environment issues are
8 interconnected. We cannot separate those, so what
9 we do today will affect us today and tomorrow and
10 clearly into the future.

11 One of my two children has asthma and has
12 all her life and still does as an adult. Never
13 will grow out of it. I have four grandchildren
14 from my two children, and two children out of the
15 four grandchildren have asthma as well. That's
16 50 percent down the generations. I'm expecting
17 that to increase if we continue to use coal as
18 part of our electricity use.

19 Going back to how this coal affects human
20 health, there's mining, not to mention the
21 transportation, there's the washing of the coal,
22 which is the slurries that can leak or break, and
23 then you have the combustion as well as releasing
24 the sulfur dioxide, the particulate matter, the
25 nitrogen oxide and mercury and, of course, many

1 other substances that we aren't aware of. They're
2 very hazardous to human health, and today I'm
3 asking you to consider that.

4 Not only to mention those particular
5 bullet points, I want to also let you know that
6 disposing of the proposed combustion waste is
7 including coal ash. There's currently, I know of,
8 584 coal ash dump sites in the U.S., and these
9 toxic residues have migrated to water supplies and
10 threatened our human health.

11 I agree that our air will be affected,
12 but also our water will be affected as well in
13 many stages of coal.

14 Right now, I believe there's plenty of
15 statistics to tell you that there's lower demands
16 for electricity right now, and also that energy
17 efficiency appliances and equipment are actually
18 lowering that demand as we produce those as well.

19 Just to conclude my remarks, I want to
20 let you know that my main concern about this
21 boiler that you're asking to expand for the
22 Holcomb plant, Holcomb 2, my concern here is that
23 the actual agreement that was signed by the
24 governor describes the unit as a supercritical
25 coal generating unit.

1 Sunflower is not under any obligation to
2 use a more efficient ultra supercritical boiler.
3 I would like the boiler efficiency needs to be
4 defined in terms of actual boiler design.

5 And thank you for listening to me this
6 evening.

7 MR. WELLS: Ma'am, would you please
8 state your address.

9 YVONNE CATHER: I'm sorry, I didn't
10 say that. It's 1920 South Hillside, Wichita,
11 Kansas.

12 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

13 YVONNE CATHER: You're welcome.

14 MR. WELLS: Bill Wentz.

15 BILL WENTZ: My name is Bill Wentz.
16 I reside at No. 5 Hickory Court in Valley Center,
17 Kansas. I want to thank you for allowing me to
18 come speak.

19 My background includes degrees in
20 engineering, a bachelors, Master's and doctorate
21 degree from Wichita State and the University of
22 Kansas, and I had an emphasis on energy
23 conversion, and have been teaching recently, in
24 fact, environmental issues related to energy
25 conversion.

1 I have some extended remarks but I'll
2 abbreviate this. One of the first questions I
3 asked, when I heard about the Holcomb expansion,
4 was why Kansas?

5 The coal comes from Wyoming, the energy's
6 mostly going to go to Colorado and the other
7 western states. Surely it's cheaper to fire the
8 coal near the source of the coal and the users.
9 Either Colorado and other Tri-State members are
10 dumber than Kansans, or they're smarter. Clearly,
11 these states are willing to forego the projected
12 jobs and other speculated economic benefits that
13 Sunflower's claiming to avoid the environmental
14 penalties, including water use.

15 Some of us that oppose the major coal
16 expansion have been accused of being opposed to
17 Kansas exporting economics, exporting energy,
18 despite the fact that we export agricultural
19 products, aircraft and other things. That's a
20 ludicrous claim.

21 What we are opposed to is importing
22 pollution and taking questionable economic risks
23 which could have an impact on Kansas for decades.

24 I believe that the coal -- that the power
25 projections, energy demand projections for the

1 Sunflower proposal are too high and the projected
2 environmental impacts are inadequately addressed.

3 We have seen in this year past the energy
4 demand for the nation has gone down. Part of this
5 has certainly been due to the recession, but part
6 of it has been due to increases in efficiency in
7 factories, home appliances, and use of alternative
8 clean energy.

9 Key point, the application ignores the
10 impact of likely carbon taxes or emission
11 restrictions. The supporting document, Holcomb
12 Expansion Coal -- Holcomb Expansion Project by
13 Black and Veatch, Page 1-10 states the costs of
14 emission allowances are not included in the busbar
15 cost analysis.

16 This is crucial. This could be a
17 50 percent rate increase for the consumer at the
18 end.

19 Adding carbon capture has not been
20 included in the plans. We know that Westar has
21 put together a combination of wind turbine backed
22 up by natural gas turbines that provide much
23 cleaner energy.

24 What's the credibility of the Sunflower
25 Coal Group? Governor Parkinson reached an

1 agreement some time ago in which the Governor
2 agreed not to block this application. Two of the
3 key provisions in that were net metering, and that
4 has not been done.

5 I urge the Department of Health and
6 Environment to reject this application on the
7 basis that Sunflower's ignored the CO2 emissions,
8 has failed to establish the proposed expansion
9 will have long-term economic viability, and has
10 reneged on its agreement with Governor Parkinson
11 and the State of Kansas.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. WELLS: Before we call up the
14 next group of names, I'd like to mention, if you
15 have a copy of your oral testimony, if you'd like
16 to give that to us, that would be much
17 appreciated.

18 Thank you.

19 The next group of names that I'll call is
20 Christopher Renner, Carol Barta, Odin Olson, Duane
21 Schrag, Tom Kneil, Eileen Sieger, and Mike
22 Mattson.

23 Christopher Renner, if you're ready, you
24 may proceed.

25 CHRISTOPHER RENNER: Good evening,

1 Christopher Renner, 508 Valley Drive, Manhattan.

2 I have previously submitted written comments to
3 this group.

4 My comments tonight basically call into
5 question where the energy's going, as I did in my
6 written comments. The proposed power plant is not
7 going to be providing energy for the state of
8 Kansas, it's going to be providing energy for the
9 state of Colorado and western, as far west maybe
10 even as Phoenix, some say, and so what we need to
11 do is look at what is viable for the state of
12 Kansas. Coal is not that answer.

13 Kansas is rich in clean energy. We have
14 an abundance of wind, solar and natural gas, all
15 of which produce energy which leave a much smaller
16 carbon footprint.

17 My real concern is what's going to happen
18 with all the CO2 that is produced by this plant,
19 how it is going to impact the delicate
20 environmental ecosystem we have in western Kansas.
21 The high plains are particularly prone to drought
22 and with CO2 pummeling into the air, we don't know
23 what the long-term effects are going to be upon
24 the weather.

25 The question is before us, how are we

1 going to stop the continued problem of CO2 and
2 carbon footprinting before we meet a tipping point
3 of no return.

4 Some scientists, even though some people
5 might disagree, the science is in. Global warming
6 is a fact. The question is, how far are we
7 willing to go to put our life of ourselves and our
8 children at risk for personal greed and wealth.

9 Thank you very much for your time, and I
10 encourage you to deny this permit.

11 MR. WELLS: Carol, is this Bart?

12 CAROL BARTA: Barta, good Kansas
13 name. My name is Carol Barta. I live at 718
14 Laramie Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

15 I'm a member of Quaker Earthcare Witness.
16 I'm also a member of the Sierra Club. Thank you
17 for the opportunity to speak tonight.

18 Though I've been concerned about
19 environmental issues for many years, in January
20 of 2009, the air quality issue became personal for
21 me. While visiting Denver for a work related
22 conference, I landed in the hospital. Denver was
23 experiencing one of its many poor air quality
24 days. Seniors and children had been advised to
25 stay inside. Not being one of those category, I

1 thought it would be fine for me to go out.

2 However, after spending two days in the
3 hospital and \$17,000, somewhat over that, they
4 determined that I had had a bronchial spasm
5 brought on by the dirty air of Denver. Though I
6 don't have asthma, I've never been diagnosed with
7 that.

8 My insurance did cover it, but the
9 cost -- but the cost of the fear and anxiety of
10 not being able to breath is another question, and
11 that has not been paid for at this point.

12 Colorado doesn't want this coal plant to
13 be built in their state for reasons of their air
14 quality, and I'm sure that the health care costs
15 are one of those reasons. We need to make certain
16 that Kansas doesn't inherit Colorado's costs and
17 problems by serving them the coal -- the
18 coal-fired energy, the coal-fired electricity, so
19 to ensure Kansans don't fall victim to these
20 health problems, I urge the Kansas Department of
21 Health and Environment to deny the permit.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: Odin Olson.

24 ODIN OLSON: Good evening. Thank you
25 for some of those things that you've done, and

1 some of things that you are going to do in the
2 future.

3 My name is Odin Olson.

4 MR. WELLS: Could you move closer to
5 the microphone, please?

6 ODIN OLSON: My name is Odin Olson.
7 I live in Manhattan, Kansas, 1426 Yuma Street.
8 I've been in the watering district for the past
9 decade.

10 This water consuming industry is
11 depleting our aquifer in -- will deplete our
12 aquifer in Western Kansas. It is depleting as we
13 speak right now without any renewing, replenishing
14 rate.

15 We, as humans, can live without the money
16 that electricity in western Kansas will bring, but
17 we cannot live without the water that is being
18 consumed.

19 You, as KDHE, are stewards of our Kansas.
20 Please do not allow the money and the politicians
21 to influence you.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. WELLS: Duane Schrag.

24 DUANE SCHRAG: Thank you for the
25 opportunity to address you. My name is Duane

1 Schrag. I live at 312 North Vine Street in
2 Abilene, and I'm here representing myself.

3 I would urge you to deny the application.
4 As you know, KDHE denied the prior application
5 from Sunflower and it did so on the grounds
6 largely of CO2 emissions and their role in
7 contributing to greenhouse gas accumulation and
8 the consequential climate change.

9 None of that has changed.

10 As you know, the power is not needed in
11 Kansas. About 20 percent of the state's
12 generation leaves the state every year.

13 Coal-fired power plants in the U.S. are
14 the number one source of mercury emissions.

15 Your obligation as a state agency is to
16 the health and wellness of Kansas residents, and
17 allowing for this increased emissions of
18 greenhouse gases, unnecessary increase in
19 greenhouse gases, would be a failure on your part
20 to uphold your responsibility.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. WELLS: Tom Kneil.

23 TOM KNEIL: My name is Tom Kneil. I
24 live at 6110 Edinburg, Bel Aire, Kansas. Since
25 your agency is based on protecting the health of

1 Kansas citizens and America, I will comment on
2 health and environment issues, rather than
3 economic issues.

4 You've heard all the arguments and
5 concerns before, and they have not changed since
6 Secretary Bremby denied the air permit for the
7 two, 700-megawatt units three years ago.

8 Mercury is still a neurotoxin and it is
9 as dangerous to infants and developing fetuses as
10 it was then. Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is
11 still a greenhouse gas and contributing to global
12 warming as it was then. Particulate matter in the
13 atmosphere is still as dangerous to our lungs as
14 it was then.

15 The only thing that has changed is that
16 the amounts would decrease slightly with this
17 smaller capacity plant, and I emphasize slightly.

18 I understand the fossil fuel industry is
19 fighting for its very existence, but so was the
20 buggy whip industry when the automobile came along
21 in the first decade of the 20th century.

22 As Bill McKibben points out in his new
23 book Eaarth, that's spelled with two A's, because
24 it's a new earth, compared to what it was years
25 ago, there is an enormous amount of money in "sunk

1 costs" in the plants and infrastructure of the
2 fossil fuel industry that will take 10 to 50 years
3 to pay off, and no one in the industry wants to
4 eat those costs.

5 But I ask you, why sink more money into
6 new plants that have a life span of 50 years or
7 more and will continue to pollute over their
8 lifetimes when there are cleaner, healthier, more
9 environmentally friendly alternatives.

10 I urge you to think of your children and
11 grandchildren, my children and grandchildren, and
12 even Earl Watkins' children and grandchildren.
13 Consider their health and futures in a world
14 that's already changing. We could ill afford to
15 continue on the path we've been following. I urge
16 you to deny the permit.

17 On a side note, it's interesting to read
18 a report that BP Wind Energy is starting
19 construction on the Cedar Creek II Wind Farm, a
20 251 megawatt project in Weld County, Colorado.
21 Colorado is building wind and we're building
22 coal-fired power plants. They're building clean
23 energy, we're building dirty energy. We need to
24 make a change.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. WELLS: Eileen Sieger.

2 EILEEN SIEGER: Good evening, my name
3 is Eileen Sieger. I live on the western edge of
4 the beautiful Flint Hills in eastern Marion
5 County, and I thank you for the opportunity to
6 speak.

7 I might point out that I also have
8 submitted recorded telephone commentary that
9 should also be submitted to you, too.

10 I won't repeat any of the very valid
11 points that have been presented. I do urge you to
12 strongly deny this. I think it will be a deadly
13 mistake if we allow this to happen.

14 I think that the water usage alone is
15 enough to deny it. I also think that if we are
16 just looking at economy and economics, which I
17 realize KDHE is not really about, but those that
18 are looking at the economics, I think the theory
19 of \$1 in the pocket now, as opposed to multiples
20 of that paid out by us all in health care and
21 other costs need to be looked at strongly. That
22 makes no economic sense whatsoever. It does not.

23 I would urge you again to think about all
24 of the things that have been said before, I agree
25 with them. I urge you to deny it.

1 I also believe that, you know, sometimes
2 I think maybe some states and some areas are
3 viewed upon as weak in opposition to some of these
4 big powerful things that try to invade us, and I
5 think that maybe we are strong enough to stand up
6 and say, no, we do not want this.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. WELLS: Would you state your
9 address, please?

10 EILEEN SIEGER: I'm so sorry, I said
11 where I live. My actual physical address is 3026
12 Kansas Highway 150, Marion, Kansas.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. WELLS: Thank you.

15 Mike Mattson.

16 MIKE MATTSON: I'm Mike Mattson,
17 Kansas boy, born and raised. I live here in
18 Salina at 118 West Wilson.

19 I like to walk around, kinda hike around
20 the state, and sometimes I go to Colorado to hike
21 at 10,000 feet. A flatlander like me is easily
22 out of breath, and at 22,000 feet, a human being
23 needs oxygen to survive.

24 22,000 feet is about four miles up. If
25 the day is 60 degrees at sea level, at 22,000

1 feet, because of the temperature gradient, the
2 temperature will be about minus 40 degrees.

3 At four miles up, if you were walking
4 along a country road for four miles, it would take
5 you maybe an hour and a half to walk that far, so
6 that we could magically walk straight up, we could
7 walk from a pleasant day to an arctic winter in
8 about an hour and a half. That's how thin the
9 membrane is that supports life in this planet.

10 If you look at a picture of the planet
11 from space, you'll can see a thin blue, pencil
12 thin blue line across the horizon, and that is the
13 extent of the atmosphere that we have to breath,
14 and to pour more and more and more and more
15 pollution into that atmosphere is beyond sensible.

16 We need 21 -- 21st century solutions and
17 not 19th century solutions for the problems that
18 face us today.

19 I urge you to reject this permit.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. WELLS: Thank you. I have three
22 more names and the three, if you'd like to come
23 down, Charles Simms, Steve Sorensen, and Zack
24 Pistora.

25 Mr. Simms, if you're ready, you may

1 proceed.

2 CHARLES SIMMS: I'm Charles Simms, I
3 live at 1414 Sherwood Lane here in Salina, and I
4 didn't really prepare anything to speak about. I
5 mainly came to listen, and I'm very impressed with
6 the knowledge and the concern of our fellow
7 citizen that are here like myself, and just cannot
8 believe that there'll be another coal plant added
9 on to what we already have in the state with
10 nothing but bad that would come from it for the
11 people in Kansas and be money going somewhere.

12 Like so many other people have mentioned,
13 increased costs of fighting the contaminants, and
14 so many reasons not to continue in this poisonous
15 route that we're on destroying our atmosphere.

16 I'm personally upset in my own fashion as
17 they transport coal across the state to the east.
18 It's going to Paducah, Kentucky, and other areas
19 in the east, so it isn't just Kansas that's
20 producing this toxin that's going in the air.

21 In western Kansas, the water is being
22 depleted. It seems like forever that we've had
23 problems with the aquifer trying to replenish and
24 more take out that can get into it.

25 The affect of people, there's so many

1 more people on the planet just in the last 20, 30
2 years. China's surpassed America in consumption
3 of energy. They have no environmental protection
4 laws of people that would be concerned about the
5 welfare, not only of people in their country, but
6 the rest of the world, so this does affect
7 everybody.

8 It's obvious that the polar caps are
9 feeling the effects, the animals that are being
10 run out of their natural environment, and it's
11 just obvious that this is one thing Kansas should
12 deny.

13 They took -- the former attorney general
14 of the state took the cigarette companies to court
15 and won. I would like to see something, another
16 movement come from Kansas to end the coal energy
17 source. Wind power is so much more clean and
18 efficient, and there's so many areas in this part
19 of the country and the world that could generate
20 plenty of electricity for all the consumers.

21 Thank you very much.

22 MR. WELLS: Steve Sorensen.

23 STEVE SORENSEN: Going to pass.

24 MR. WELLS: Okay, thank you.

25 Zack Pistora.

1 ZACK PISTORA: Zack Pistora, from
2 Manhattan, Kansas. I live at 1120 North Manhattan
3 Avenue.

4 Why I'm here today, I kinda found out
5 about this a little bit late, but I'm here as a
6 student of political science at Kansas State
7 University. I'm a Kansan, so I think that's
8 important, being political science, being engaged
9 in issues.

10 I didn't really know if I was going to
11 speak or not when I got here, but I think on
12 behalf of the environmental club at Kansas State
13 that I represent, and help lead students to
14 environmental action, I think they'd want me to.

15 I also come to you as a farmer. I grew
16 up on a pig farm in Eastern Kansas, and also as a
17 young person, too.

18 I wasn't always an environmentalist. I
19 became an environmentalist, obviously, in
20 connection with the land, being a farmer, and just
21 kinda being exposed to how important we interact
22 with nature every day has really moved me in
23 trying to make a better future, hence, trying to
24 help out the environmental club at K-State.

25 But I look around today and I don't see

1 too many young people -- well, younger people, I
2 guess, my age, around, so I'm kinda curious what
3 they think about this matter, and just my
4 perspective by, you know, I'm at a place in higher
5 education at K-State where most of the kids are
6 from Kansas, different parts of Kansas. It's been
7 kinda cool to meet them, but attitudes are
8 changing, especially with the young folks.

9 I'm not going to speak on behalf of them,
10 but from my observations, younger people are more
11 interested in the core values that mean things to
12 them, including health, having an environment that
13 we can live in, having jobs that we can undertake
14 that are also purposeful, not only to ourselves,
15 but to the world around us.

16 I'm considering this issue today and ask
17 myself how am I going to be affected whether or
18 not a coal plant gets put into place. I'm an
19 inheriter of the things around me and the society
20 I'm coming into as a young person, and I'm asking
21 myself, how am I going to be affected. I'm a
22 student, I'm going to need a job eventually.
23 Maybe, as an environmental ethic, maybe I'll
24 pursue a green job, if you will.

25 What I know about this is maybe not as

1 much as the experts out there. I do know that
2 most of the energy goes out of state, not helping
3 Kansas. I know that coal power energy is harmful
4 to some extent to our health immediately,
5 including asthma, but also a bigger threat to
6 global warming.

7 I know that fossil fuels are called
8 fossil fuels for a reason. Meaning they're kinda
9 like a cassette or eight track player that are not
10 as useful, so if we have options on the table that
11 maybe not be as cheap or may be cheap, who knows,
12 but that are going to help our environment and our
13 health a little bit later in life, then I, as a
14 young person, who's going to be an inheriter, I'd
15 like to see that happen.

16 Now, I say that I'm going to inherit the
17 earth, but there's also the saying that we also
18 borrow it from our children, so I see my time is
19 expired, I thank you for your time.

20 MR. WELLS: Kay Burns, are you here?

21 Kay Burns?

22 That was the last name that we had on the
23 registration forms that indicated that they had a
24 desire to present testimony. So this concludes
25 the public presentation of comments during this

1 hearing.

2 I'd like to inform you that the public
3 comment period will remain open through August
4 15th, 2010. Individuals who wish to submit
5 written comments may do so by mailing their
6 statements to the following address: Kansas
7 Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of
8 Air, Attention: Sunflower Comments, 1000
9 Southwest Jackson, Suite 310, Topeka, Kansas,
10 66612-1366.

11 You can also submit written comments via
12 e-mail to Sunflower Comments, which is one word,
13 at kdheks.gov. In order for your comments to be
14 considered, they must be postmarked on or before
15 August 15th, 2010.

16 I would like to express my appreciation
17 to all of you who took time to participate in
18 today's hearing. This hearing is now adjourned at
19 7:20 p.m.

20 Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
SALINE COUNTY)

I, Donna M. Lytle, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of
Kansas, certify that the foregoing is a full and
correct transcript of all of the oral evidence and
oral proceedings had in this matter at the
aforementioned time and place.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and official seal at Salina, Saline
County, Kansas this _____ day of _____,
2010.

Donna M. Lytle, CSR, RPR, CRR
234 N. 7th Street, Suite E
Salina, Kansas 67401

