

P R O C E E D I N G S

(8:03 p.m.)

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2
3 MR. WINBERG: Good evening, everyone. Good
4 evening, and welcome to the National Coal Council
5 meeting. This is my second NCC meeting in this job,
6 and my fifth NCC meeting, but Janet booted me out
7 after I got this job.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. WINBERG: I'm still a little saddened by
10 that, but --

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. WINBERG: Thank you. So welcome to the
13 kickoff of the 2019 spring meeting of the National
14 Coal Council. Thank you all for being here tonight,
15 and thank you to everyone who helped organize today's
16 program. Special thanks goes to NCC Chair Deck Slone,
17 Vice Chair Danny Gray, and all the members of the
18 executive committee for their leadership, and to Janet
19 and Horinthie as always.

20 Where did you go, Janet? There. Your hard
21 work has paid off, marvelous dinner. So thank you
22 very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. WINBERG: Is Horinthie -- where are you?
25 Are you here? She's still working.

1 (Laughter.)

2 MR. WINBERG: Well, when you all leave, give
3 her just a little word of thanks. She does a
4 tremendous job, and as you all know, it's a lot of
5 hard work trying to herd cats like us.

6 So, Horinthie, thank you so much.

7 Also, I want to welcome our distinguished
8 guest, Mary Neumayr. Mary chairs the White House
9 Council on Environmental Quality, and I know how busy
10 your schedule is because it took me a while to get in
11 to see you a month ago. So thank you so much for
12 being here with us this evening. We're extremely
13 honored to have you. And I know that everyone in this
14 room is looking forward to hearing what you have to
15 say. So thank you.

16 I know you're probably eager to get started
17 on all of this, so I'll be brief. A lot has happened
18 since we met last year. You released the Power Reset
19 report in the advancing coal exports last fall. And I
20 can speak on behalf of Secretary Perry. He really
21 appreciates the hard work that everyone in this room
22 does on these National Coal Council reports. It's
23 invaluable to the Department of Energy, and it's
24 invaluable to the fossil energy office. So thank you
25 very much.

1 I know you probably -- or we're all eager to
2 get started here. For our part at the Department of
3 Energy, I just want to say that we're ramping up our
4 efforts to strengthen coal, to ensure its critical
5 place in the nation's grid through our work on
6 existing plants, our coal-first initiative, and of
7 course carbon capture utilization and sequestration.
8 We're also working on the new ways to create value
9 streams for coal, and new ways to utilize this vast
10 resource that we have in this country. And we need to
11 do all of those things if we're going to maintain an
12 all-of-the-above policy in the United States.

13 So with the Coal Council's work with our R&D
14 and collaboration with our other partners, with input
15 from industry, from many of you in this room, with a
16 friendly regulatory environment, and with a president
17 who is committed to the future of coal, we have a
18 unique opportunity here to explore and develop
19 exciting pathways to help us to get coal to where we
20 want it, really where we need it to be.

21 So we'll hear about some of those pathways
22 during the meeting tomorrow, and we'll hear from
23 Undersecretary Menezes about the department's efforts.
24 We'll also welcome new members, and we'll elect a new
25 chair and vice chair.

1 So we're going to have a very informative
2 meeting and a productive meeting tomorrow. And I hope
3 that all of you are here tomorrow because here is the
4 little tease. Undersecretary Menezes might, just
5 might, have an announcement. And I'm going to leave
6 it at that.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. WINBERG: Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 So Danny Gray, if I could ask you to
11 introduce our keynote speaker, thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. GRAY: I'd like to reiterate to everyone
14 we appreciate you being here, obviously, on behalf of
15 Janet and the NCC, and of course to Deck and the team
16 that has been here for the year. I've got the
17 distinct honor of introducing our guest speaker. And
18 most of you, or many of you, either know her or are
19 impacted by her, I can assure you.

20 But Mary is the current chairman of the
21 White House Council on Environment, Environmental
22 Quality. She was unanimously confirmed by the U.S.
23 Senate on January 2nd and sworn into office on January
24 the 10th. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Neumayr had
25 been serving as CEQ's chief of staff since March of

1 2017.

2 Before joining CEQ, Mary served in a variety
3 of positions within the Committee of Energy and
4 Commerce in the U.S. House, including the deputy chief
5 counsel, Energy and Environment, 2017; senior energy
6 counsel, 2011 to 2017, and counsel from '09 to '10.
7 Ms. Neumayr also served as deputy counsel for
8 environment and nuclear programs at the U.S. DOE
9 during the period of '06 to '09, and as counsel and
10 assistant attorney general for the Environment and
11 Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of
12 Justice.

13 Prior to her government service, Mary was in
14 private practice in '89 through 2003 in New York and
15 San Francisco, and she received her BA from Thomas
16 Aquinas College and her JD from University of
17 California Hastings College of Law. I think probably
18 one of the more compelling statements that I saw and
19 kind of speaks to who she is as a person was one of
20 the quotes from her staff during the confirmation, and
21 the quote was, "you can work with her and have a
22 cordial, professional conversation".

23 So that says a lot. Welcome, Mary. Thank
24 you.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. NEUMAYR: Well, good evening, and thank
2 you so much for that very kind introduction. I would
3 just like to thank all of you for the opportunity to
4 be here tonight and to participate in the National
5 Coal Council's 35th anniversary celebration. It's an
6 honor to be here with all of you and to have the
7 opportunity to speak about some of the
8 administration's energy and environment priorities and
9 initiatives.

10 Coal has fueled our nation's growth for
11 generations and has been and continues to be a
12 critical part of our nation's energy portfolio. Over
13 the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of working
14 on coal-related matters in both the executive and the
15 legislative branches, and I've had the opportunity to
16 work with members of Congress from coal-producing
17 states, with organizations, and many stakeholders,
18 including the National Coal Council and Janet, and
19 with members of the council.

20 So it's really a genuine privilege to be
21 here, and a pleasure to be here, and I just thank you
22 so much for the invitation. As was said, I have had
23 the pleasure of serving at the Council on
24 Environmental Quality since 2017, first as chief of
25 staff and now as chairman.

1 I'd like to begin by providing a brief
2 overview about the Council on Environmental Quality,
3 and then go on to talk about some of the
4 administration's priorities and policies generally to
5 promote economic growth and job creation while
6 protecting our environment and improving the quality
7 of life of all Americans.

8 These priorities include pursuing
9 commonsense regulatory reforms, expanding our nation's
10 energy production and exports, and improving our
11 nation's environmental review and permitting process
12 to promote the development of modern infrastructure to
13 meet our nation's needs, including our energy needs.

14 And after discussing some of the
15 administration's more general priorities, I want to
16 talk specifically about some of the CEQ-related
17 actions that are currently pending. So just to start,
18 by way of background, the Council on Environmental
19 Quality was established in 1970 under the National
20 Environmental Policy Act. It is both a component of
21 the executive office of the president and also a
22 federal agency, and we are housed at the White House,
23 and we have a staff that includes career officials,
24 appointed officials, and also detailees from many of
25 the federal agencies.

1 So one of our core responsibilities under
2 NEPA is to oversee the implementation of NEPA by
3 federal agencies, and we do that through our
4 regulations and our guidance. In addition to
5 overseeing NEPA implementation, we also have a number
6 of other functions. We advise the president on
7 environmental policy matters generally. We
8 participate in the interagency review process that is
9 conducted for rulemakings. This is the review process
10 conducted by OIRA within the Office of Management and
11 Budget. And so we will often participate in the
12 interagency reviews.

13 And then we also have -- and we were
14 discussing this earlier. CEQ also does play a
15 convening role when there is a need for the agencies
16 to coordinate on environmental policy matters or other
17 related issues. And that's something that has been a
18 longstanding role of CEQ and continues to be.

19 So I would just like to start by saying that
20 the administration is strongly committed to promoting
21 clean air and clean water. The United States has and
22 continues to be a global leader in clean air progress.
23 And I think as you know, U.S. air quality ranks among
24 the highest in the world. According to the EPA,
25 between 1970 and 1973, our emissions of the six common

1 air pollutants dropped by an average of 73 percent,
2 and EPA projects that those trends will continue going
3 forward.

4 According to the 2018 Environmental
5 Performance Index, the United States also ranks among
6 the highest -- among the top countries in the world
7 for water quality, and first for drinking water.

8 While the United States leads the world in
9 environmental protection, we are also pursuing a
10 strong economy. Countries with strong economies are
11 best able to address environmental challenges, and in
12 the United States, we are experiencing historic
13 economic growth. More than 2.6 million jobs were
14 created last year. The unemployment rate has remained
15 at or below 4 percent for the past 12 months, the
16 longest streak in nearly five decades, and hourly
17 wages have grown at the fastest pace since 2009.

18 To ensure that we have a strong economy, and
19 at the direction of the president, the administration
20 has worked aggressively to reduce costly and
21 unnecessarily burdensome regulations affecting
22 multiple sectors of the economy, including the energy
23 sector.

24 Federal agencies have undertaken reviews to
25 consider reviewing, revising regulations that are

1 overly broad, complex, or that exceed the scope of an
2 agency's statutory authorities. These reviews and
3 related regulatory reforms, some of which I'll discuss
4 shortly, have contributed to the historic economic and
5 job growth that we're experiencing today.

6 One of the most significant deregulatory
7 efforts by Congress and the administration has been
8 the repeal of a number of rules under the
9 Congressional Review Act. Prior to 2017, the
10 Congressional Review Act had actually only been
11 successfully used once, in 2001. However, since the
12 beginning of this administration, Congress has issued,
13 and the president has signed, resolutions of
14 disapproval under the Congressional Review Act for 16
15 rules.

16 One of those rules specifically affecting
17 the coal industry was the stream protection rule.
18 That rule would have decreased annual coal production
19 in the United States and put at a risk a large number
20 of coal-related jobs. According to a recent Council
21 of Economic Advisors report, Congress' decision to
22 overturn this rule through a Congressional Review Act
23 resolution signed by the president, is estimated to
24 generate an annualized 80 million in cost savings for
25 the surface and underground coal-mining industries.

1 In his first few months in office, the
2 president also issued a number of executive orders
3 that specifically focused on regulatory, economic, and
4 infrastructure improvements across our economy. In
5 January of 2017, President Trump issued an executive
6 order titled, "Reducing Regulation and Controlling
7 Regulatory Costs."

8 This executive order directed agencies to
9 repeal at least two existing regulations for each new
10 regulation issued. Accordingly, last year, federal
11 agencies issued 12 deregulatory actions for every new
12 significant regulatory action, saving an estimated 23
13 billion in regulatory costs. Through the end of
14 fiscal year 2018, the Council of Economic Advisors
15 report notes that a total of 65 regulatory actions
16 affecting the energy sector were completed, with a
17 projected present-value savings of over 5 billion.

18 To have a strong economy, as we all know,
19 access to affordable, reliable energy is necessary.
20 One of the administration's highest priorities is
21 expanding access to affordable energy, both
22 domestically and abroad, including through regulatory
23 reforms. Just yesterday, in Crosby, Texas, the
24 president signed two executive orders that seek to
25 expand our nation's energy infrastructure.

1 The first executive order, which is titled,
2 "Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth,"
3 recognizes that advances in our technology and
4 innovation have allowed our nation to become a
5 dominant energy force, including a leading energy
6 exporter.

7 The order at the same time recognizes our
8 need for expanded energy infrastructure in order to be
9 able to transport energy, including coal, to end
10 users, both domestically and abroad. The executive
11 order specifically address a number of issues, one of
12 which is state water quality certifications under
13 section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

14 The process for issuance of these
15 certifications has been a matter affecting a
16 development of new energy infrastructure, including
17 pipelines as well as export terminals. The executive
18 order specifically directs the administrator of the
19 Environmental Protection Agency to consider updates to
20 the agency's existing regulations and guidance to
21 ensure that implementation of section 401 of the Clean
22 Water Act is efficient and is consistent with the
23 statutory authorities.

24 The order directs EPA to focus on promoting
25 timely federal-state cooperation and reasonable review

1 times for this process. In addition, the executive
2 order also includes a section which directs the
3 secretary of Energy, together in consultation with the
4 secretary of Transportation to prepare a report to
5 Congress on barriers to a national energy market.

6 The order requests that the report prepared
7 by the secretary of Energy specifically address
8 economic and other effects caused by limitations on
9 the export of coal, natural gas, oil, and other
10 domestic energy resources through the West Coast of
11 the United States. The report will assess whether and
12 to what extent state, local, tribal, or territorial
13 actions have contributed to such effects.

14 The second order, executive order, signed
15 yesterday addresses presidential permits for cross-
16 border infrastructure. Decades of prior executive
17 orders, regulations, and agency policies have resulted
18 in a process that has delayed development of important
19 cross-border energy infrastructure. The executive
20 order addressing cross-border permitting provides for
21 revisions to ensure that the process for future
22 permits will be more efficient. And this executive
23 order reaffirms that the issuance of presidential
24 permits is solely a decision of the president.

25 These executive orders, which were signed

1 yesterday, build on earlier presidential actions
2 intended to expand our nation's energy production,
3 including for coal. In March of 2017, President Trump
4 issued an executive order, EO-13783, which was titled,
5 "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth,"
6 and has often been referred to as the Energy
7 Independence Executive order.

8 This executive order directed all of the
9 federal agencies to review agency action that
10 potentially burden the safe and efficient development
11 of domestic energy resources. As many of you may
12 know, the order specifically directed the Department
13 of Interior to lift the moratorium on coal leasing on
14 federal lands, among other actions. And I'll speak
15 about that in just a moment a little bit further.

16 But in addition, that executive order also
17 disbanded the Interagency Working Group on the Social
18 Cost of Greenhouse Gases, and directed the withdrawal
19 of several related social cost of carbon documents, as
20 no longer representative of federal government policy.

21 In addition, that executive order directed
22 the Environmental Protection Agency to review the
23 Obama administration's Clean Power Plan. This rule,
24 which would have imposed federal mandates and billions
25 of dollars on states and consumers, was challenged by

1 a majority of the states in the country and, as you
2 know, was subject to a stay by the Supreme court in
3 2016.

4 In August of this year, the EPA published a
5 proposed replacement rule called the Affordable Clean
6 Energy or ACE rule. The ACE rule establishes
7 emissions guidelines for states to follow as they
8 develop plans of their own to address greenhouse gas
9 emissions from existing coal-fired power plants. The
10 ACE rule would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from
11 coal-fired power plants, but without imposing the
12 clean power plant's significant costs and burdens on
13 industries, workers, families, and consumers.

14 The rule preserves states' rights, promotes
15 energy independence, economic growth, and job
16 creation, and allows states to develop what is very
17 important, diverse, reliable energy portfolios.
18 According to the EPA, under some scenarios, the ACE
19 rule will save a total of 6.4 billion in compliance
20 costs compared to the Clean Power plan. EPA projects
21 that replacing the Clean Power plan with the ACE rule
22 could result in 3.4 billion in net benefits, including
23 400 million annually.

24 Another proposed deregulatory action
25 involves the regulation of hazardous air pollutants

1 from coal-fired power plants and involves a rule that
2 also reached the Supreme Court. The court found that
3 the EPA's 2010 decision in its mercury air toxics, its
4 MATS rule, a decision that regulating coal-fired power
5 plants was appropriate and necessary without
6 considering costs, violated the Clean Air Act.

7 EPA has reconsidered this rule and has
8 proposed that it is not appropriate and necessary to
9 regulate mercury from coal-fired power plants, given
10 the costs of compliance range from 7.4 to 9.6 billion
11 annually while the quantifiable benefits relating to
12 mercury reduction would range from 4 to 6 million
13 annually.

14 Further, EPA has also issued regulations to
15 provide more certainty with regard to the disposal of
16 coal ash from coal-fired power plants, and has taken
17 other deregulatory actions that may provide increased
18 certainty for the coal sector.

19 As I noted earlier, the energy independence
20 executive order issued in March of 2017 directed the
21 Department of Interior to lift the moratorium on coal
22 leasing, which the Department of Interior has done.
23 This action is estimated to have made available for
24 extraction an additional 17 billion short tons of
25 federally-owned coal reserves in the Powder River

1 Basin alone.

2 Additionally, in February of this year, the
3 Department of Interior announced that the Bureau of
4 Land Management approved two mining projects in Utah.
5 As now Secretary Bernhardt stated at the time, coal
6 production on federal lands provides nearly 40 percent
7 of our nation's coal. By approving these projects, we
8 will ensure that these mines are operational for years
9 to come, providing well-paying jobs and affordable
10 energy for the people of Utah.

11 Further, in March of this year, the Office
12 of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement adopted
13 the Forrest Service's supplemental final environmental
14 impact statement and published a record of decision
15 relating to the West Elk coal mine in Colorado. DOI
16 also recently finalized a final EIS for the San Juan
17 mine in New Mexico.

18 The U.S. Energy Information Administration
19 estimates that U.S. coal exports increased 19 percent
20 in 2018, totaling 116 million short tons, marking the
21 second consecutive year of growth and highest level in
22 five years. Steam coal was the primary driver in
23 expanded exports, having grown 44 percent in the first
24 three quarters of 2018 over 2017 levels.

25 India and South Korea were the leading

1 purchasers of steam coal, while the Ukraine and the
2 Netherlands purchased a majority of U.S. metallurgical
3 coal.

4 So I'd like to turn now and talk about some
5 CEQ-specific actions. First I'd like to talk about
6 infrastructure generally. Infrastructure has been a
7 very high priority for the administration, and
8 particularly for the Council on Environmental Quality,
9 given our role in helping to oversee the
10 implementation of NEPA.

11 As you know, for many major infrastructure
12 projects, including energy and mining projects, the
13 permitting process can often involve multiple federal
14 agencies and overlapping statutory authorities,
15 resulting in a process that is all too often very
16 time-consuming and unpredictable and fragmented, and
17 very costly.

18 Recognizing these challenges, in August of
19 2017, the president issued an executive order titled,
20 "Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the
21 Environmental Review and Permitting Process for
22 Infrastructure Projects," EO-13807. This is an
23 executive order that seeks to reduce duplication and
24 uncertainty of the environmental review process, and
25 really does build on the efforts of past

1 administrations and of Congress to try to modernize
2 the permitting process and to streamline and to
3 address or reduce delays without compromising
4 important environmental protections and public
5 participation.

6 To implement this executive order, CEQ went
7 back and compiled data on the length of time that it
8 takes federal agencies to complete environmental
9 impact statements. We looked over the period 2010 to
10 2017 across all agencies, measuring the time frame
11 from the date upon which a notice of intent to prepare
12 an EIS is issued to the date of issuance of a record
13 of decision. And we found at the time the average
14 time was four and a half years. This report and the
15 underlying data is available on our web site.

16 To reduce these time lines and to streamline
17 environmental reviews, the executive order issued by
18 the president in August of 2017 established what has
19 been referred to as a one federal decision policy.
20 This is a policy that sets a goal of not more than two
21 years on average to complete an environmental review
22 for a major infrastructure project, and it defines
23 major infrastructure project as a project which
24 involves multiple federal agencies and a project for
25 which the lead agency has determined that an

1 environmental impact statement will be prepared.

2 Under the policy, the federal agencies are
3 directed to at the outset prepare a joint schedule.
4 That schedule is to be prepared by the lead federal
5 agency in consultation with the cooperating agencies.
6 The agencies are also directed to develop a single
7 environmental document rather than multiple documents,
8 and a single record of decision in most instances.
9 There are some limited exceptions, but the agencies
10 are directed to work together to complete the process
11 within two years, and to issue all permitting
12 decisions within 90 days after issuance of the record
13 of decision.

14 There is also a requirement that the
15 agencies have in place an elevation process so that
16 issues that may result in delays to the project are
17 elevated in a timely way and resolved by senior
18 management at the agencies.

19 Last March CEQ and the Office of Management
20 and Budget issued guidance on the one federal decision
21 policy, and then a year ago this week 11 federal
22 agencies and the permitting council that had been
23 created pursuant to the FAST Act, the Federal
24 Permitting Improvement Steering Council, all signed a
25 memorandum of understanding relating to the one

1 federal decision policy.

2 They committed to seek to implement that
3 policy and to meet the two-year goal going forward,
4 and they committed to what really is an unprecedented
5 level of coordination among the agencies in conducting
6 their environmental reviews for these major projects.

7 The agencies have over the past year -- or
8 sorry, the past few months, have been compiling the
9 information, the schedules for these projects, and we
10 actually just this week posted the first set of
11 schedules for the major projects there available on a
12 permitting dashboard, which is hosted by the
13 Department of Transportation. And on a going-forward
14 basis, agencies will be required to post schedules for
15 these projects within 30 days of the filing of a
16 notice of intent to prepare an EIS.

17 So this will provide greater transparency
18 and accountability and predictability for project
19 applicants, for project sponsors, and for the public.

20 A little bit about CEQ's regulations. As
21 part of this executive order, CEQ was specifically
22 directed by the president to review our own
23 regulations and our guidance to -- and to make
24 revisions that we deem necessary to modernize and
25 enhance the environmental review and decision-making

1 process.

2 NEPA, as you may know, was enacted almost 50
3 years ago, and our regulations were issued in 1978, so
4 more than 40 years ago. They have been amended only
5 once, in one very limited respect, in 1986. However,
6 the CEQ over the years has issued more than 30
7 guidance documents to assist agencies and the public
8 in implementing NEPA.

9 So given the executive order, given the
10 length of time that has passed since our regulations
11 were issued, CEQ made a determination last year that
12 we would invite public comment on potential updates
13 and clarifications to our regulations. We did that
14 through an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking,
15 which we issued last summer, and we included a list of
16 20 questions requesting comments on potential
17 revisions to update and clarify regulations in order
18 to ensure a more efficient and timely and effective
19 process for decision-making by all the federal
20 agencies.

21 We received over 12,500 comments. These
22 came from a very broad range of entities, including
23 states and localities, companies, trade associations,
24 environmental organizations, NEPA practitioners,
25 academia, and interested members of the public. The

1 comments ranged on a number of topics, but included
2 potential revisions or updates to clarify the NEPA
3 process and the documentation that's required,
4 potential revisions to encourage the use of existing
5 studies and analysis in order to promote a more
6 efficient process.

7 We received many comments on the use of
8 current technologies, which of course were not in
9 effect in 1978. And then we received many comments on
10 improved federal coordination. So we're in the
11 process of reviewing those comments and considering
12 potential revisions. We look forward to working with
13 stakeholders and with agencies on any potential
14 changes. And should we move forward, we will propose
15 those changes, and we'll be seeking public comment.

16 Finally, the energy independence executive
17 order that I mentioned earlier also directed CEQ to
18 withdraw the greenhouse gas and climate guidance which
19 had been issued by CEQ in late 2016. And so in April
20 of 2017, we did withdraw that guidance for further
21 consideration. Just recently we have submitted
22 proposed draft guidance to OMB for interagency review.
23 And following that review, we anticipate that we would
24 publish that draft guidance in the *Federal Register*
25 and seek public comment. And we look forward to

1 public comments.

2 So with that, I know it's the end of the
3 evening, and I'd like to thank you all again for the
4 invitation to be here tonight. Under the leadership
5 of President Trump, we will continue our efforts to
6 promote policies that ensure that our nation has
7 affordable, reliable sources of American energy,
8 including coal. And I look forward to working with
9 the National Coal Council and with your members, and I
10 look forward to that going forward. So thank you very
11 much, and look forward to any questions.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. WINBERG: Mary is going to take some
14 questions, so anyone --

15 MS. GELLICI: Turn this on. Obviously, Mary
16 is not busy at all.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MS. GELLICI: Thank you so much. That has
19 been a tremendous rundown on everything that's going
20 on. I learned a lot. I'm very impressed, and thank
21 you very much for sharing that information with us.

22 So Mary has graciously agreed to take a
23 couple of questions if folks have them, so thank you.
24 And if you would please state your name and
25 affiliation, that would be helpful for the

1 transcriber. Thank you.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello. My name is Galash
3 Srivastava (phonetic), and I do not have any
4 affiliation anymore. I just retired from the
5 government service a few months ago. However, my
6 question is related to this. I really appreciate what
7 you said about a review of everything. Two questions.
8 One is related to the environmental quality. From
9 what I understand, there have been a number of things
10 directed toward EPA reducing the rules for the
11 pollutants to the air and to the water in respect to
12 the fact that there will be a cost reduction.

13 And the other question which really bothers
14 me a lot, we have been talking all these years, at
15 least 45 years of my professional life, that when we
16 burn the coal, it's a pollutant. It pollutes
17 everything. However, I have not seen during my 45
18 years of professional life anything coming from the
19 government or from those who are interested in
20 reducing the pollution toward the technologies that
21 promote non-burning technologies for the coal to
22 produce power, which is also economical as well as
23 cost-reduction. And I would like to know what has
24 been done in this particular area, if you have any
25 answers to that.

1 MR. WINBERG: Well, take one and I'll take
2 two?

3 MS. NEUMAYR: Yeah, maybe you're -- yeah,
4 maybe I'll take one, and you can take two.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MS. NEUMAYR: Yeah. So as I mentioned,
7 regulatory reform has been a priority for the
8 administration, and in particular consideration of
9 some of the regulations issued by the Environmental
10 Protection Agency, which may carry tremendous costs
11 and have -- and/or present practical challenges for
12 implementation and/or may raise questions.
13 Particularly the clean power plan was an example of
14 whether the agency's actions were consistent with its
15 statutory authorities.

16 And so, there have been a number of rules
17 that the agency has been in the process of
18 reconsidering, and, you know, that's something that
19 has been a priority because we want to ensure that the
20 regulations that are issued are consistent with the
21 relevant statutes and are also practicable to
22 implement.

23 MS. GELLICI: Do you want question two?

24 MR. WINBERG: Sure. Great question on the
25 technology. I will tell you most of the focus that we

1 have right now is on combustion and gasification. You
2 of course know that. But there are other
3 technologies, chemical looping being one of them. And
4 I think as we look out over the horizon, the horizon
5 for me being maybe the next five to ten years, clearly
6 the focus is on combustion and gasification, small,
7 modular, very efficient, near zero emissions.

8 But beyond that, when we start looking at
9 other really advanced technologies, MHD, chemical
10 looping, there are technologies out there that we
11 have -- that we're investing money in, we're
12 developing. And I think my children will probably be
13 enjoying those technologies, and my grandchildren, but
14 I'll be long retired by then.

15 And so, you know, we need to make sure that
16 we keep technologies in the mix that we can
17 commercialize in a time frame that's -- that will
18 ensure that we have an all-of-the-above strategy for
19 the next dozen years and beyond. But great question..

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Just one comment on that.
21 There is a number --

22 MS. GELLICI: Just wait a minute. We have
23 to have it on the transcriber's --

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Very brief. There is
25 microbial technology which is very passive, does not

1 produce that much of pollutants from coal. It is not
2 a burning technology, and it produces not only the
3 gas. It also produces power, and also produces
4 byproducts that can be used for the overall economic
5 benefit. And I personally have not seen anything
6 about that particular technology, and it's a microbial
7 technology. And I have not seen anything about it.

8 MS. GELLICI: So thank you for your
9 comments. As I am working my way back to another
10 question here, I will mention that the National Coal
11 Council at the secretary's request is currently
12 working on a report on new markets for coal, which
13 will look at non-combustion opportunities for new
14 products. So we're looking outside of power
15 generation. That report will be completed by mid-May,
16 so let me address some of your concerns or questions
17 at least.

18 So, Mark.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Identify yourself, please.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mike Carr with Challenge
21 Design Group. For the chairwoman, there is a lot of
22 talk about -- in certain circles about a panel of
23 scientists who look at government science, about
24 carbon dioxide emissions, and things like that. In
25 those conversations, what is the role contemplated for

1 CEQ?

2 MS. NEUMAYR: Well, I think I would just say
3 that's a deliberative matter, and a matter in
4 deliberation, and so I don't have anything to say
5 other than, you know, as a part of the executive
6 office of the president, we typically will participate
7 in these interagency processes to consider potential
8 actions. But I don't have anything specific to share.

9 MS. GELLICI: Mary, I'll take the last
10 question, and thank you very much for being here.

11 So I learned a lot about CEQ, and I think
12 our group did tonight. I wasn't familiar with that,
13 so if you can just tell us, does CEQ interact with
14 international agencies at all in terms of their
15 operations and what they're doing on a day-to-day
16 basis?

17 MS. NEUMAYR: Well, we do. It's not
18 uncommon for us to have an opportunity to speak with
19 other agencies, and when they visit Washington, we may
20 have an opportunity to meet with them. So, yes, we do
21 have some interactions.

22 MS. GELLICI: I think so much anymore is
23 on -- you know, so much of the issues that we deal
24 with are internationally important in terms of air
25 quality and environmental aspects. So that would be

1 great.

2 MS. NEUMAYR: Yeah.

3 MS. GELLICI: But would you please join me
4 in thanking Mary for her graciousness in being here?

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. GELLICI: Thank you so much, Mary.

7 MS. NEUMAYR: Thank you.

8 MR. WINBERG: Thank you, Mary. I was struck
9 by how much this administration has done to create an
10 environment where business can prosper, and people can
11 work. And I'll tell you -- and this isn't in my
12 printed remarks. But I will tell you that -- and,
13 Mary, maybe you feel the same way sort of day-in and
14 day-out. We kind of lose sight of everything that
15 this administration has done, and there is more to do.
16 But we can't do it by ourselves, and that's where you
17 all come in.

18 So, thank you so much. We appreciate it.
19 And again, I know how busy you are, so thank you for
20 taking the time this evening.

21 Just another round of applause, please.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. WINBERG: So out of that executive order
24 that was signed yesterday, three of those
25 responsibilities fall squarely on fossil energy, and I

1 have 180 days to get them finished, so the next six
2 months is going to be very busy, and I'm starting to
3 feel that already.

4 But before we wrap, I just want to go over a
5 little business for tomorrow. We will convene
6 tomorrow morning at 8:30 in Exhibit Hall B South? Is
7 that correct? Okay. And so during the meeting, we'll
8 start off with elections of the new chair and the vice
9 chair, and then as I mentioned to you, Undersecretary
10 Mezenes will deliver remarks, and then we'll hear
11 several presentations, and we will adjourn on or about
12 12:15.

13 So we have a pretty packed day tomorrow.
14 Again, I thank you all for coming this evening. For
15 those of you that are driving, please get home safely.
16 We need you here tomorrow, and we need you here beyond
17 that. So thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. WINBERG: We are adjourned.

20 (Whereupon, at 8:45 p.m., the meeting in the
21 above-entitled matter adjourned, to reconvene at 8:30
22 a.m. the following day, Friday, April 12, 2019.)

23 //

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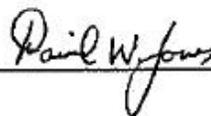
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

DOCKET NO.: N/A
CASE TITLE: National Coal Council Meeting
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LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately on the tapes and notes reported by me at the hearing in the above case before the United States Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy.

Date: April 11, 2019



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