

CHADRON, NEBRASKA

December 20, 2016

DAWES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Public convened meeting of the Dawes County Commissioners was called to order at the hour of 2:00 P.M. on the 20th day of December, 2016 and published pursuant to public notice as required by law for the purpose of a conference call pertaining to the Revision to 40 CFR Part 192. The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Stewart. Roll was called and the following Commissioners were present: Commissioners Stewart, Johnson and Rivera. Also present was Deb Lesmeister, Dawes County Deputy Clerk and Kerri Rempp, The Chadron Record. Per LB 898 the Chairman announced the location of posted information concerning the Open Meetings Act. Copies of the Act are available upon request by anyone attending the meeting. Joining those in attendance on the conference call were Andrew Pessin, Attorney for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Elise Striz, Hydrogeologist for Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Vlad Dorjets, Policy Analyst for Office of Management and Budget. The EPA did not participate in the call though they were invited too. Commissioner Stewart explained that Crow Butte Resources is part of CAMECO and it mines yellow cake uranium, and it is not an open pit mining. There were 69 full time jobs, however 36 positions have been lost leaving on 33 personnel at the mine presently. They also eliminated 3 part-time positions and they do not have any outside contractors at this time. The production of the mine was 156,000 pounds and it is now down to 100,000. The valuation has also decreased due to lessened production. The Crawford Schools has lost 34% of their funding due to same reason. The population of Crawford has dwindled from 1,250 to 997. Four businesses have also closed in Crawford. It has had a definite impact on the town of Crawford. Commissioner Johnson added that several of the mine drillers and outside contractors has added support to the community of Crawford by purchasing supplies and goods and also sponsored scholarships for the youth of the community. He knew of several people who were employed by the mines or contractors for the mines in times of economic hardship in rural agriculture. Vlad was impressed by input and concerns of people who are impacted and have voiced concerns at the public hearings. He also acknowledged the Commissioners concern with the ground water and other economic impacts. Commissioner Stewart continued by saying that 4 or 5 county roads surround the mining operation and the County has a good repore with those individuals and the effects of the mine. He stated the Commissioners tour and visit the mine on a regular basis. The Commissioners stated they were not aware of water contamination in the area of Crow Butte. Commissioner Johnson stated the water is tested and it is not used for animal consumption. Commissioner Rivera stated that the air quality is tested on a regular basis approximately 10 miles from the site of the mine. Vlad said they will continue to review of the rule. That concluded the conference call and the meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

ATTEST: _____ **DAWES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Deb Lesmeister

Dawes County Deputy Clerk ----- _____