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 ----------------------__________________________________