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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
PROCUREMENT DIVISION



NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY
PUBLIC MEETING



Tuesday
September 18, 2007
3 PM
Denver West Marriott

1 Appearances:

2 Jeff Baker

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4 Speakers

Page

5 Preston Gibson

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6 Patrick Keegan

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7 Mayor Steve Burkholder

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Whereupon, the following proceedings were had:

Afternoon Session

3:20 PM

(Presentation by Mr. Jeff Baker.)

MR. BAKER: Everybody is welcome to speak.

Mr. Gibson?

MR. GIBSON: Thanks, Jeff.

My comments are going to somewhat sound like Jeff's. I'm going to really the sing praises of NREL and what they have done and continue to do for our economy here locally.

My name is Preston Gibson. I'm president of the Jefferson Economic Council based across the highway. It only took me a minute and a half to get over here today, and I appreciate that. It doesn't happen very often.

My comments are about five minutes in length.

Let me say that I stand today in support of what we consider and our host considers to be a first class internationally renowned laboratory, which we all know as NREL. It's a leading research facility. We all know they provide an enormous economic impact to our region. That economic impact comes from internal growth, salaries, and intellectual property; also the spin-off of entrepreneurial

1 enterprises and these jobs that are here as a result of
2 NREL's presence.

3 Currently the Lab has -- and you know better than
4 I do -- 1,000 to 1,200 employees, and will be adding more
5 maybe 150 more in the coming 18 months or so as I understand
6 it.

7 They also bring about --

8 (Discussion off the record.)

9 They also bring about 350 million per year into
10 our economy annually. Most of the funding is appropriated
11 federal funding which will be used in expanding the
12 facility, for purposes of new research and manufacturing
13 equipment critically important and that, of course, support
14 economic growth.

15 The jobs that are created are better compensated
16 than the average. We did research a couple of years ago
17 where we figured energy related pay was 65,000 annually. I
18 would guess that's probably around 70,000 currently.

19 Look at our average salary it might be for the
20 area probably \$42,000 annually. They are very well
21 compensated jobs.

22 So what we see is they bring wealth and revenue to
23 the region, economic development that organizations focus
24 on, and this industry along with aerospace, bioscience, and
25 aeronautics is a target industry for Jefferson County. We

1 find that we spend most of our time and resources on working
2 with the existing companies trying to attract new
3 businesses.

4 Regarding the energy industry in specific we've
5 seen very rapid growth. A study we completed a couple of
6 years ago at that time and in the previous five years from
7 that time there was about a 70 percent job creation in the
8 energy industry, which is pretty phenomenal.

9 Although we don't have more recent figures I
10 believe we're probably still creating energy-related jobs
11 rapidly, maybe just as rapidly. This growth to a large
12 degree is because of NREL here in JeffCo.

13 From what I've seen technical transfer, where they
14 basically take the scientific knowledge and bring them to
15 commercialization, is alive and well at NREL. They actually
16 have strategic partnerships locally where there's technical
17 transfer division and clean energy lines more specifically.
18 And I think you mentioned something about that a minute ago,
19 Jeff.

20 Just a couple of quick examples are Prime Star
21 Solar and VersaPower. These companies are conducting
22 research and without NREL as it is run today I doubt we
23 could have the economic growth which we currently enjoy.

24 Further, without our ability to attract energy
25 related high tech companies we also would be negatively

1 impacted. I think that NREL as it's currently run by MRI is
2 an excellent community partner.

3 In addition to development they are members of
4 local chambers of commerce, my organization. And more than
5 just members; they were participatory on short notice last
6 year when they attended and became a panelist at my request
7 at a state regional developmental conference.

8 They have also spoken at local and regional
9 business events, and have participated on my Energizing
10 Tomorrow task force, and have relayed valuable
11 information.

12 NREL also looks to the future with educational
13 programs. No question that all of our industries are
14 concerned about the graying of our work force -- people that
15 look kind of like me here. Some company told me up to
16 50 percent of our work force is currently eligible or will
17 be eligible to retire within just a few short years.

18 I think NREL understands that and understands that
19 dynamic of working to educate our next generation with a
20 number of programs targeting our elementary and post
21 secondary schools as well as externships for science
22 teachers.

23 Just a few final remarks. We believe NREL is a
24 very well-run organization managed by Batelle. As their
25 sponsor of the development they support economic growth;

1 they are supportive of the local community with such things
2 as technical transfer and participation with
3 business-oriented community groups; they are looking to
4 the future with students and teachers; and last but not
5 least they help our region and nation with the development
6 of wind, photovoltaics, and bioenergy into the future.

7 In closing I just want to say that in looking to
8 the future and things that someone who might bid on the
9 proposal should look at, I think technical transfer, there
10 needs to be a continuing focus on technical transfer. That
11 is what fuels our economic growth and brings more inventions
12 out to commercialization. Anything we can do as a business
13 community and as an organization we are very happy to
14 participate. Thank you.

15 MR. KEEGAN: My name is Pat Keegan and I'm with
16 the Colorado Energy Science Center.

17 My life is spent largely on things that resulted
18 from the last recompetition. This means a lots to me. The
19 Colorado Energy Science Center is a small, nonprofit
20 organization. And the idea of that actually was born out of
21 the 1998 recompetition is my understanding.

22 I was working at NREL at the time. And by the
23 time I heard about this, the recompetition was over; MRI had
24 won. I found out that MRI and their partner Batelle were
25 charged with starting a new nonprofit organization. So they

1 pulled together to form a wonderful board of directors and
2 hired me to be the executive director.

3 It's been quite an interesting ride since then.
4 But it was a great idea, I think, to try to connect NREL to
5 the community by working kind of an innovative idea into the
6 recompetition.

7 It was, as it turned out it was not such an easy
8 thing to do to get a nonprofit organization started.
9 Beginning of 2001 first thing that happened is the dot coms
10 collapsed, then 911; the worst fundraising environment in a
11 generation.

12 We were able to get a few projects going. And the
13 founding organizations really were behind us. MRI
14 especially. And MRI has continued to this day to continue
15 to put some funding in to keep us going.

16 We've grown. Now we do a lot of consumer
17 education. Smart Living reaches 100,000 readers. Our
18 school program reaches 10,000 students a year.

19 A small percentage of our funding comes from MRI.
20 We can have some community impacts that allow NREL and
21 DOE -- which is an original idea -- really to have greater
22 leverage.

23 I think looking back on it I might be biased, but
24 I'm hired; I worked on this; I have to go out and raise the
25 money. I work at it with a lot of people at NREL and DOE

1 and MRI. I think that's a great approach to the
2 recompetition to try to use that not only to continue this
3 real excellence in the R and D side but to try to connect
4 NREL and DOE to the Colorado community.

5 In the last few years we've just seen an explosion
6 of interest in this whole area. Everybody's feeling it from
7 the people hired at NREL to all the different organizations
8 that I work with seeing such a huge interest from the public
9 and the business communities in energy efficiency and
10 renewable energy.

11 We used to have workshops. We would ask people in
12 the NREL visitor center, we would ask people, Do you know
13 about NREL? And a couple of people would nod their heads.
14 And then DOE pulled off this wonderful public relations coup
15 where they got on the front page of the papers for the
16 president's visit beginning of February last year. Remember
17 all that?

18 it really was wonderful because everybody that
19 comes to our workshops now has heard about NREL and are
20 really excited about it. Now they know that there's this
21 really special R and D institution right here in our
22 community. I've seen in the last years much more of a
23 presence of NREL like Preston was talking about.

24 So I think the technology transfer is a great
25 thing. We're also trying to have some, continue some

1 positive community impacts work. We're kind of a spin-off
2 nonprofit rather than a spin-off business, and we can help
3 do that. There's other ways that could be done creatively
4 through the competition process to make that happen.

5 One of the ways that that happened for us is this
6 public-private partnership idea. It was in the EERA's
7 mission statement I noticed. That's really what we do is
8 try to pull in partners that will get behind us and provide
9 funding so we can do energy education and have energy
10 programs.

11 Utilities provide money to us. We've got
12 companies locally who put money in. We also get some grant
13 money from the Department of Energy or EPA. We have a real
14 public-private kind of partnership going as a nonprofit that
15 was really just a spin-off coming out of the recompetition.

16 I hope you're creative about how you look in the
17 future. I've heard ideas about how there could be things
18 surrounding the NREL campus. There would be new buildings
19 or new facilities that would allow other participation from
20 the other local companies and people that want to connect to
21 this.

22 Those are all great ideas, I hope. Whoever it
23 was, thanks for being creative 10 years ago. You did a good
24 thing.

25 MR. BAKER: I know a lot of you out in the

1 audience do have opinions. No one?

2 Let's adjourn until we have some more speakers.

3 Thank you for your help. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon the afternoon session was adjourned at 3:49 PM.)

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Evening Session

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6:16 PM

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9 MR. BAKER: Welcome everybody. Mr. Mayor, we want
10 to thank you particularly for arranging this around your
11 travel.

12 MAYOR BURKHOLDER: This is fine. I actually
13 don't have any formal remarks. I jotted a few comments down
14 based on the discussion that preceded me coming up here.

15 I must say that originally I said I couldn't be
16 here tonight. I got back into town, looked at this, felt it
17 was so important because I truly walk the talk when it comes
18 to the work that is done in renewable energy. I think it's
19 critical not only for me but our kids and our grandkids to
20 really make sure we as a nation are adopting and utilizing
21 many of the techniques that are really being done right out
22 here at the National Renewable Energy Lab.

23 I want to focus my remarks on several issues.
24 First of all, partnership, investment, attitude, and
25 bandwagon. Let me chat briefly about each of those.

1 I couldn't ask for a finer partner when it comes
2 to the National Renewable Energy Lab. What they do with the
3 Jefferson Economic Council, what they do at the City of
4 Lakewood, and also with the Metro Mayors Caucus here in the
5 Denver Metro area is really very, very important.

6 We're also spending time now with the Colorado
7 Municipal League. It's been my pleasure to be the immediate
8 past president of the Colorado Municipal League. So the
9 message is getting out. I think that's one of the biggest
10 things that's important for us to remember. The National
11 Renewal Energy Lab is looked at and is definitely considered
12 to be a partner in the community.

13 The other thing I think from the point of view of
14 partnership, when I look at any organization that I deal
15 with and it's a business -- and I treat National Renewal
16 Energy Lab as a business. I feel it is extremely well
17 managed. And every dealing that I have had with them is
18 done in a very professional manner.

19 I've toured the facilities. It's easy for a
20 person like me who's not technical to understand what is
21 going on, and at the same time appreciate the leading edge
22 research that's going on out at that particular area. And
23 particularly we've had direct contact with people like Dan
24 Arvizu and Carol Tombarie.

25 Another area I wanted to chat about was

1 investment. This is something I think is extremely
2 important not only from the point of view of the federal
3 taxpayer but also from the point of view of the people who
4 live in the Jefferson County and Denver Metro area.

5 The multiplier effect of what NREL does is
6 absolutely astounding. The people that come here are pretty
7 knowledgeable individuals and that quite frankly is an
8 understatement. We find that they contribute to their
9 communities, that they are actively involved at their
10 schools, and they're actively involved in community
11 organizations.

12 But I think that the other thing that is
13 important -- and I could sit here and spout off statistics,
14 but I'm not going to do that this evening -- is the fact not
15 only from the jobs that are offered but also the fact that
16 the capital investment that's done out here at the campus,
17 if you would, is really very, very important, and sends a
18 very strong message that National Renewal Energy Lab is an
19 integral part of our community.

20 Let me talk about investment from the County and
21 the City's point of view and what you do. There's an
22 attitude that is created out here and a synergy. The more
23 that we can create that interest of people wanting to move
24 here because this is the energy capital of not only the
25 United States but of the world the more we start to see

1 things happen.

2 As an example, the building across the street here
3 is a Platinum Certified building. At BelMar we have a
4 lead certified, Silver Certified spec building.

5 You've caused us to really rethink what we're
6 doing in the City of Lakewood. Regrettably my term is going
7 to be limited, but I can assure you the next mayor's got a
8 stack this big ready to move on making Lakewood a Green
9 City.

10 We are going with biodiesel, we are going with the
11 LED lighting; we've reduced the amperages of our other
12 lights. We have a campaign within City Hall to turn off
13 lights when they're not needed. So it's an attitude
14 adjustment that we're working on in this technical area.

15 Really one of our crown jewels here is we recently
16 opened a senior housing project where 25 percent of the
17 energy is recyclable energy. We feel very good about that.

18 Let's talk about attitude. I love one of the
19 statements that's given all the time: We kind of think up
20 the ideas, and once we get them working we throw them over
21 the fence to the private sector.

22 What a great example of government working with
23 the private sector. I think that this is something that I
24 always like to talk about. I think the partnership that is
25 evident in that particular area is strong. So you are

1 definitely walking the talk when it comes to the
2 public-private partnerships that are here in our area.

3 Let me really just conclude my remarks by stating
4 that I do walk the talk. I drive a hybrid vehicle; I have
5 solar power in my home; we've exchanged all of our lights
6 out, and we've changed all the windows in our home. And it
7 really makes sense to me not only from the money we save but
8 also in some cases we've been a little leading edge on the
9 thing.

10 I think it's so critical we start to set an
11 example that we can lead not only the nation but also the
12 world in some of the techniques that are out there. And
13 folks, those are being developed right here in our back
14 yard.

15 I think it's embarrassing that the hybrid vehicle
16 developed right here in Jefferson County had to be adopted
17 by the Japanese. It's a little hard for me to understand.
18 But we'll keep working on that.

19 I want to conclude my remarks by really saying one
20 thing, and that's the bandwagon effect. It's kind of a buzz
21 word now we're into renewable energy and all the good things
22 with oil being at \$80 a barrel and everybody's jumping on
23 board. We're planting corn fence row to fence row.

24 But the reality is, let's don't lose sight of the
25 fact what we're doing here is going to have a long-term

1 impact on the world and on our kids. And I think that
2 that's the important thing to do.

3 As we move forward in renewing the contract here I
4 think it's extremely important that we don't want to have a
5 bunch of Johnny-come-latelys who quite frankly are
6 unprofessional to jump in because it's the thing to do now.
7 We need to rely on the experience that has brought us to
8 where we are. Sometimes it's best to be kind of ready, aim,
9 fire rather than ready, fire, aim on this issue. So that's
10 just a word of caution is to remember what got us here and
11 continue to do good things.

12 This is a great partnership we have and we're very
13 proud to have NREL here in Jefferson County which is, as I
14 always say, the western edge of Lakewood. Take care. I'm
15 available for any questions.

16 MR. BAKER: All right. Any questions? Any other
17 observations? Anybody else want to speak?

18 Barb, I see you came back. I'm sure you have
19 something to say.

20 By the way, anything that you have to say again
21 you can offer it with or without your name. Employee
22 issues, direction of NREL, anything you want to talk about.

23 Okay. I think then we're going to wrap it up and
24 we'll adjourn for right now. Appreciate your time and
25 attention. We'll look forward to getting your comments

1 either in writing or possibly on the draft solicitation when
2 it comes out in the next few weeks.

3 Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming out.

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5 Whereupon the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Martha Loomis, Certified Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that the within proceedings were taken by me on September 18, 2007, then reduced to typewritten form by means of computer-aided transcription; that the foregoing is a true transcription of the proceedings had to the best of my ability to hear and understand.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
September 26, 2007.