

MEMBERS PRESENT:

ASSEMBLY

SENATE

Chairman Hickey
Vice Chairman Rackley
Chairman Jeffrey
Vice Chairman Redelsperger
Mr. Kovacs
Mr. Polish
Mr. Schofield
Mr. DuBois
Mr. Rhoads
Mr. Horn
Mr. Sader
Mr. Dini

Chairman Glazer
Vice Chairman Faiss
Mr. Bilbray
Mr. Neal
Mr. Jacobsen

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Mello
Mr. Banner
Mr. Marvel

Mr. Lamb

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bob Erickson, Senior Researcher
R. Gilbert Moore, General Manager, Thiokol Corp.
Ed Smith, Resource Concepts.
Phil Martinelli
Jac Shaw, Nevada Division of State Lands
Mike Kilpatrick, Extension Range Specialist
College of Agriculture, UNR
Cathleen Henning, Public Relations, Boeing Aerospace
Paul B. Demitriades, External Relations Manager,
Boeing Aerospace

Chairman Hickey called the meeting to order at 2:05 P. M. and introduced Mr. R. Gilbert Moore, General Manager of Thiokol Corp. who talked about the reseeding efforts on rangelands in connection with the installation of MX basing. Mr. Moore explained what may be done to improve the habitat, water supplies and plant species. He covered the subject of roadways and fencing and explained that they are the source of most of the problems of impact on rangelands.

Mr. Moore indicated that the United States Air Force is very interested in the reseeding project and the plant species which has been the most successful in the reseeding studies has been Kochia Prostrata. Utah State, other schools and laboratories have had much input and all of the experiments have been conducted in Utah so far but will be done in Nevada also.

Mr. Rhoads explained that planting cannot be done on BLM land. He has experienced this as a rancher. Mr. Moore said his projects have not been done on BLM land.

Mr. Glazer wondered why the Air Force is interested in the reseeding project and Mr. Moore explained that the rangeland plant species is important for the animal population such as antelope and deer and he mentioned several types of grazing feed.

Mr. Neal asked how many types of sage are being considered. Mr. Moore mentioned several and explained how the spring planting may not be as successful as the fall planting. The fall planting at Hill Air Force base will be the most important test. However, water is most important to both plant species and wildlife and we are in a drought year. Project Oasis was mentioned in connection with a system for collecting water similar to a guzzler system. He mentioned 46 water holes which need only an electrical system for pumps.

Mr. Moore explained about the initial investigation in Utah using Kochia Prostrata, a species from Asia classified as an exotic species used in Russia and introduced to the United States in 1965. This plant species is under study in several states. The BLM lands cannot be planted with exotic species at the present time. Kochia Prostrata out-competes many plants presently growing on the rangelands and is very high in protein content.

Mr. Rhoads asked if Kochia Prostrata is good for both cattle and wildlife feed and Mr. Moore replied that it was.

Mr. Hickey asked about construction dates as proposed by MX representatives and Mr. Moore said that Jim McCarthy would be the best one to contact for dates.

Mr. Hickey asked for questions from the audience and Mr. Ed Smith asked about the time element. Mr. Moore again referred to Mr. McCarthy and went into detail about fencing and roads.

Mr. Jac Shaw said it would be a very good idea to start revegetation planning ahead of time and Mr. Moore agreed that was important.

Mr. Redelesperger asked about Kochia Prostrata and Moore clarified his experiments with that species.

Mr. Moore suggested the committee members and any others interested to come to the Armory on January 23 between 10:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. to see the MX Basing System model and plan.

Mr. Polish interjected the thought of tunnels in mountains as an alternative to the racetrack plan of MX.

Boeing representative Cathleen Henning urged everyone to see the model at the Armory on the above mentioned date and times.

Mr. Hickey adjourned the meeting at 3:20 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Fondi
Janice Fondi
Committee Secretary

2

AGENDA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Joint Committee Hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and Assembly Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and Natural Resources, Room 131.

Day: Thursday _____, Date: January 22 _____, Time: 2:00 P. M.

General discussion on the MX project regarding experimental grass planting on range land.