

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 project. Was there opposition, dressed up, if you will,
2 in this proposal to study it more?

3 A. Yes, there certainly was opposition.

4 Q. Can you describe or give me any perimeters to this
5 opposition?

6 A. First and foremost, nobody had any money in any
7 department that they were willing to put forward for such
8 a project. And while a lot has been made of numbers of
9 the issues that surrounded the application, the
10 overwhelming problem was where was the money going to
11 come from to finance a request of the type that was made
12 by the Westray proponents?

13 Q. I take it, from what you're telling me, that even
14 though this comes up through your Department, it isn't
15 necessarily an item that would be for your Department's
16 budget?

17 A. The risk certainly was that, because you are the
18 messenger, you also get to pay the bill. And so it was
19 an overriding and continuing concern on the part of every
20 -- all the officials in my Department and myself that we
21 would, at the end of the day, be asked to pay the bill.
22 And if I suggest to you that the amount requested was
23 well over half of the annual disbursements that we could
24 make on government-funded programs from DRIE, you can
25 understand the level of concern. It would, effectively,