

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 They had chain link fences. They had settling ponds.

2 They were even sweeping the street. They said, "It's run
3 well and the bulk sample -- and there's really no reason
4 it shouldn't go ahead."

5 Another colleague said it wouldn't be good politics
6 and sent information over and the Department really had
7 no choice but to say it has to go into a full
8 environmental assessment. And we were afraid because of
9 all the opposition in the House and there's -- and all
10 the allegations, we were afraid to go ahead. And, you
11 know, today that strip mine is operating now.

12 Q. Was --

13 A. Under the very same conditions it would have
14 operated then.

15 Q. Was the company under pressure to produce?

16 A. I think it's only normal the company wanted to
17 fulfil that contract. I mean, that's -- I would feel
18 pressure if I had a contract and if, you know, if you
19 don't supply it, you don't have money.

20 So, you know, hopefully you'll ask the company that,
21 but I'd be surprised if they didn't feel pressure to --
22 you know, I think they felt the pressure to go into the
23 Southwest section to produce coal because of that delay.
24 I mean, I'm convinced that's the reason. The only
25 reason. They may not tell you that, but I'm convinced