

FEDERAL OIL SHALE PROGRAM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1967

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:40 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Henry M. Jackson (chairman), presiding.

Present: Senators Jackson, Moss, Nelson, Burdick, Allott, Jordan of Idaho, and Hansen.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; James H. Gamble, professional staff member; and Darryl A. Hart, assistant minority counsel.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

This is an open, exploratory and informational hearing by the Senate Interior Committee on the development of oil shale, a great natural energy resource that is not now being utilized, and that is found in rich deposits in our public domain. While at this time there is no proposed legislation before us dealing with the subject, the Secretary of the Interior, on January 27 of this year, announced a 5-point action program to promote economic recovery of shale oil and associated minerals from the Green River formation in Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah.

This hearing, while general in nature, will focus on this 5-point program, and without objection, I will direct that the text of the Secretary's press release of January 27 appear at this point in the record, together with my brief statement on the floor of the Senate on January 31 announcing these hearings in which I tried to outline briefly some of the background facts with respect to oil shale. (The documents referred to follow:)

[News release from the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Jan. 27, 1967]

FIVE-POINT OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced a five-point action program to promote economic recovery of shale oil and associated minerals from the rich oil shale resources of the Green River Formation in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. It is estimated that known oil shales of the area contain the equivalent of about 70 times the present domestic proved reserves of crude petroleum.

Steps leading to the program announced by the Secretary began in 1964 with the appointment of a distinguished group of private citizens to the Oil Shale Advisory Board. The Board's interim report, presented to the Secretary in February 1965, has been the subject of intensive and detailed review within the Interior Department during the past two years.

The Secretary pointed out that mounting energy demands in the United States made it increasingly important to develop oil shale to the point where it can begin to make a contribution to meeting U.S. energy needs.