

I don't think its deferral should be related or would be related to these kinds of things. In that cratering situation one does break the surface of the ground. Fairly significant amounts of rock are thrown into the air and accompanied by some small amounts of radioactivity, and this, of course, is a much more controversial process than the gas and oil applications in which it is not contemplated that the surface of the ground would be broken at all.

Senator HANSEN. In your mind, then, this will not inhibit or hold up any future development insofar as the oil shale is concerned?

Mr. KELLY. Yes, that is right. These are quite different and they are much less controversial and there are fewer reasons for deferring this sort of thing than there would be in the excavation type.

Senator HANSEN. I was interested in some of the testimony—I have forgotten whose now—this morning to the effect that it was not yet known what effect an atomic explosion might have on the recovery of these other associated minerals, such as dawsonite. I noted that the Secretary said quite forthrightly that in his opinion the Peceance area in Colorado would be the logical place for an atomic explosion.

Do you think that it might be indicated that a little testing someplace else where dawsonite was not associated with the oil shale would be indicated in order to see if this type of approach would serve to help in the recovery of a lot more shale without disturbing the minerals that might be adversely affected insofar as their recovery is concerned by an atomic explosion?

Mr. KELLY. Offhand I would think so, sir. We clearly support the Secretary's objective of trying to develop technology for recovering the kerogen and the dawsonite and I don't know that the two are incompatible.

On the other hand, I don't know that they are not, either.

Senator HANSEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MOSS. I have just one more question.

Do you have one more, also, Senator Allott?

Senator ALLOTT. In the Gasbuggy situation I understand, of course, that the actual control of the explosive would be entirely under the Atomic Energy Commission.

Mr. KELLY. That is correct.

Senator ALLOTT. Do you know to what extent the Department of the Interior controls the rest of the experiment or is that under the control of the private companies who are financing it?

Mr. KELLY. Well, the Atomic Energy Commission has the responsibility of conducting the detonation and for assuring that it is done safely and that sort of thing. The Department of the Interior represents the Government on evaluation of the gas formation and the change that takes place in it.

Of course, the industry likewise, for that is the part they are really interested in, too.

Senator ALLOTT. Well, I will ask the Department of the Interior that question.

Mr. DAVY. I would like to say, sir, that they do have control as a signatory to the contract; there is a division of work or labor, as you might say, which gives the Department of Interior a very substantive roll in this project.