

Senator Moss (presiding). That will be fine. Have them come to the table.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Nielsen right here, and Mr. Bowes.

Senator Moss. Glad to have you gentlemen join us.

Mr. SMITH. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on the five-point program for oil shale development which was announced by the Secretary of the Interior on January 27, 1967.

Wolf Ridge Minerals Corp. is a Colorado corporation engaged in development of natural resources, principally in western Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. The company is committed to the objective of participating in the creation and orderly development of an integrated mineral-chemical-industrial complex. The company's management and stockholders firmly believe in the feasibility of this concept and that such a development would bring significant benefits to the United States and to the individual States involved.

The company's technical and field operations are headed by Irvin Nielsen, a geologist who has been active in evaluating the geology and mineral resources of the Green River formation for the past 10 years. The company's research efforts are under the direction of John Savage of Rifle, Colo., a chemical engineer who has been engaged in the investigation and development of mineral resources for over 20 years.

Both Mr. Nielsen and Mr. Savage are members of the corporation's board of directors. The other members of the board are Samuel R. Freeman, partner in the law firm of Van Cise, Freeman, Tooley & Eason, attorney for the Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission since 1954, and also formerly assistant attorney general of Colorado; Arthur S. Bowes, Jr., who is with us here today, Chicago, Ill., investments and financial consulting; John P. Boynton, Milwaukee, Wis., investments and oil and gas interest, and myself. I have been active in the development of western resources for 20 years and have served the Federal Government as Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Director of the International Cooperation Administration.

Wolf Ridge Minerals Corp. is an independent company and is not controlled directly or indirectly by any other company. It is associated with several other companies, however, in some of its work. In addition to its own staff, the company has made extensive use of outside consulting laboratories and experts.

The reason for appearing here is that the company has completed, in the last 3 years, sufficient geologic, process, and economic research on Green River formation strata to prove that its sodium exploration permit cores represent valuable discoveries of nahcolite, dawsonite, and other minerals. The minerals in this formation will yield alumina, soda ash, oil, and organic materials and can be produced from the same raw material produced from the same mine.

The company has developed, in the laboratory, a series of processing techniques which can separate and produce each of the above minerals. These can generally be described as follows:

1. Mined rock is crushed and selectively screened to remove a range of "fines." The mineral nahcolite will be concentrated in the fines because of its tendency to crush to finer particles than the tougher or more elastic host rock.
2. The nahcolite fines or concentrates will be sent to a soda ash section for processing.