

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and does it require environmental audit or it is just something they should consider?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It says that the council's consideration shall include, and then that is one of the factors that is to be included. I don't see how they could consider potential environmental liabilities without some sort of an audit, but...

SENATOR BEUTLER: So you would expect them to get an environmental audit before they jumped into this?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Are you aware at all, at this point in time, of any environmental problems along the trackage? Are there any oil dumps or any problem areas to your knowledge along these lines?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: There are two refueling stations on the line. One is at Long Pine, and one is at Chadron. I think in the normal course of things you would have expected to find some spilled diesel fuel there. Whether it is anything extraordinary or not, I am not aware of it. Those are the only two potential sources of environmental liability that we have identified at the present time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair and members. I would just again like to comment on the letter which Senator Kristensen discussed about the latest turn in the negotiations. Now it would have been really easy not even to have brought this letter before you, but the decision was made to be completely up front and bring you the latest information, which did come in at three twenty-five this afternoon. Now we don't know whether this deal is going to go through. As indicated here, it may not go through, but what we are saying is that we need the structure. We need the structure because at this late date in the session, if we don't have the structure available, then if these negotiations are successful, if we don't have the structure, we don't have anything, and it has to be done in this session. If it is not done in this session, then abandonment will begin and