

**Chad Houchin, Mayor
Sigurd, Utah**

Interviewer-John Howe

Chad, let's start out by just, tell me a little bit about the process here. What's being proposed for this coal plant?

Chad Houchin

A little over eight years ago, probably close to ten years ago, an outfit, Sevier Power, proposed to build a 275-thousand watt, megawatt, coal-fired plant, and it's within three-quarters of a mile of the main town and our water supply. It's probably not even a quarter mile from the closest homes in town here. And, like I say, it's been about eight years ago, and they've come to our first council and the council kind of accepted them and didn't tell the town people, and now we've got a whole new council and the town are kind of standing up and saying, "Hey, you know, we're being impacted," kind of viewing our opinions on it, but it's just 275-watt--megawatt--coal-fired power plant.

Interviewer-John Howe

Tell me your opinion of whether this is a good or bad thing.

Chad Houchin

On my personal level, I don't agree with it being right here in town. The community could always use the revenue, a good business, and the tax dollars and the employment, but it being three-quarters from town, and impacting the town and the county as much as it will I, personally think there's better industry. As a mayor, 96% of the town has come to me, at least that maybe, and they're greatly in fear of our clean air. Like I say, they want to drill a well three-quarter of a mile, just actually under that, from our water source. They want to change the flood plain from the waters on the west side of the mountain, which will cause the water to go down our center street in town. With the traffic, we're talking lots of trucks, the impact there; and the clean air. The technology of coal has changed. It's better than in the past, but unless Little Valley, three-quarters of a mile, just right in the middle of our town. It's a spread out town. It's greatly affected our town and the townspeople.

Interviewer-John Howe

Tell me how the town feels about this.

Chad Houchin

When Sevier Power first came in, they met with just a couple of the town council and the mayor, and they, the town people kind of felt left out. They proceeded in coming in and just, more or less saying this town of Sigurd accepts it and, once the town people themselves, we started looking into it. We said, "Hey, it's going to be three quarters of a mile from town, and it's not in our town, we won't get any tax base. Their indoor water system; and we're going to get the effects of the traffic and the air." At first we felt left out. Now the county commissioners, they have come around and they have been doing a good job to let us know how this procedure's going with Sevier Power CO, but the town is very greatly going to be impacted if it comes, and

they kind of felt like we didn't have a voice.

Interviewer-John Howe

What do you think it would mean to the town's economy?

Chad Houchin

Of course it'll help our stores. It won't bring any tax dollars because it isn't actually in town. During the construction, there are going to be a lot of people. It'll be good for the town, but they'll come in, build up a town, and they'll just kind of leave it and I think that'll hurt a little bit. And then just the effects--once it's going, not in a good deal.

Interviewer-John Howe

What is the timetable here for approval? If it is approved, what would happen?

Chad Houchin

I believe, its May 13th today, I believe, don't quote me this, the Commissioners make a vote yes or no within this next month. And there are still some court procedures going on with that, but more or less, if the county commission accepts it, I believe they can start breaking ground and doing the procedures after that, but they're saying, there's going to be court, from either side, whichever, if it comes or goes after. But I believe they can start building any time after the Commissioners vote it a yes.

Interviewer-John Howe

Tell me a little bit about Sigurd. What kind of town is this, and what are the people like who live here?

Chad Houchin

We have 365 registered voters for instance, with families. It's a very big farming community. There are a lot of farmers, dairy farmers, they raise hay here. We do have a USG sheetrock plant, a gypsum plant; a few people are there and then there's a trucking industry. And it's a good town, good people, with average income for the valley. But mostly we're farmers, and we work at the plants and the coal mine up the canyon. It's a very laid back town; we kind of mind our own business. It's a very unique town, I believe.

Interviewer-John Howe

How has Sevier Power been to work with?

Chad Houchin

They've come to a couple of our council meetings. In the eyes of a mayor, I don't believe they've answered the questions of the citizens. They've listened to the townspeople and they've tried to give us an answer, "We'll help the community," but we're going to come no matter what, so let's work this out." We don't expect a guarantee, but they don't really give us a straight-out answer. They don't realize they're going to drill and take over 600 gallons, no that's what we use, they're going to take 2,000 gallons a minute of water, and, it's just gonna greatly affect the town, and our well. And the people are very concerned, and we as a town don't feel like they have taken that into consideration and listened to us and explained what happens if they drill, if they dry our

well, you know? They're like "Well, we're going to try not to do that". But, there isn't a long-term, I'm not saying guarantee, they just want to build this and just get it over with, is what the people in the town are thinking.

Interviewer-John Howe

Tell me about the coal mine that's here in town.

Chad Houchin

We have a coal mine up the canyon there. It's Sufco. It's Canyon Fuel. They're the biggest for the county. They bring in more money, for the tax base, employers. They employ four or five hundred people, plus the people hauling it. They are very good to the community. They want the plant for the coal contract. In our eyes, we don't have a contract with them. But, there are coal miners that live in town. It's very good business. They're very community-friendly. The townspeople, for instance, we believe they can sell the coal already without having the burden of putting the power plant right in Sigurd. Some of the people in town are "If you can move this power plant to the edge of the valley, or away from our water, we wouldn't be so against it". Against the power plant itself.

Interviewer-John Howe

What would you like to see happen with the plant?

Chad Houchin

Personally, if it was to come to the valley, I would like it in a different location, closer to Sufco, where it's not taking the whole valley's water and the air won't be secluded in this valley. I believe, as a mayor, that most of the people don't even want it in the county, the townspeople, and most of them would be a little bit more ok if it wasn't right on our doorstep. The people are very good and understanding, and we do realize it would bring more money, but then the tourists, this and that, you know, it's a very beautiful valley. Who wants to come to this valley and see a 480-ft. smokestack right in the middle of the valley, which you could see from hundreds of miles certain places north and south of the valley?