

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**113<sup>th</sup> Congress Disclosure Form**  
**As required by and provided for in House Rule XI, clause 2(g) and**  
**the Rules of the Committee on Natural Resources**

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources oversight hearing titled “*Mining in America: The Administration’s Use of Claim Maintenance Fees and Cleanup of Abandoned Mine Lands.*”  
June 13, 2013

For Individuals:

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Email Address:
4. Phone Number:

\* \* \* \* \*

For Witnesses Representing Organizations:

1. Name: KRIS HEFTON
2. Name of Organization(s) You are Representing at the Hearing: VANE MINERALS (US) LLC
3. Business Address: [Information redacted for privacy]
4. Business Email Address: [Information redacted for privacy]
5. Business Phone Number: [Information redacted for privacy]

## For all Witnesses

Name/Organization: Kris Hefton / VANE MINERALS (US) LLC

Title/Date of Hearing: Oversight hearing titled “Mining in America: The Administration’s Use of Claim Maintenance Fees and Cleanup of Abandoned Mine Lands.” / June 13, 2013

a. Any training or educational certificates, diplomas or degrees or other educational experiences that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

B.Sc. Geology, 1978, University of Texas at Austin

b. Any professional licenses, certifications, or affiliations held that are relevant to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

- 1) Is a board member in the Northwest Mining Association,
- 2) Was appointed to serve as a member of the Arizona State Mining Advisory Council on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for a 4-year term,
- 3) Member of Arizona Geological Society,
- 4) Former Chairman of the Uranium Committee of the Arizona Mining Association,
- 5) Former board member of the Arizona Mining Association, and
- 6) Was the member representing energy minerals on the Ad Hoc Committee on Mining Regulations of the Arizona 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature organized by Representative Russ Jones.

c. Any employment, occupation, ownership in a firm or business, or work-related experiences that relate to your qualifications to testify on or knowledge of the subject matter of the hearing.

My exploration career began with Century Geophysical Corp. in 1976. Starting in 1978, I spent nine years with the uranium exploration division of Energy Fuels Nuclear Inc. working as a geologist on projects in Utah and Arizona. In Arizona, I was assigned to projects in the breccia pipe district on the Arizona Strip beginning in 1979. I joined Freeport-McMoRan in 1988 and later headed the mine site exploration team at Freeport’s Grasberg Mine in Indonesia and managed exploration programs for Homestake Mining Co. and Barrick Gold Corp. in Poland, Bulgaria, and Chile from 1997 to 2002. I joined the VANE team in 2004 to start-up their uranium exploration program under VANE Minerals (US) LLC, and presently, am Director and COO of VANE Minerals PLC which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange. VANE is active in uranium and copper exploration in the southwest USA and operates gold and silver mines and a mill in Mexico. My combined exploration and mining experience totals 36 years.

d. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the Department of the Interior (and/or other agencies invited) that you have received in the current year and previous four years, including the source and the amount of each grant or contract.

e. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by you against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed.

f. A list of all federal lawsuits filed against you by the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit, the subject matter of the lawsuit, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits were filed.

g. Any other information you wish to convey that might aid the Members of the Committee to better understand the context of your testimony.

From 2004 to present, VANE Minerals has invested \$8.5m in exploration for uranium in the Colorado Plateau uranium district, the majority of which was in the northern Arizona breccia pipe district. The district holds excellent potential for the discovery of high-grade uranium deposits, and has been the setting for previous exploration and mining activities that were carried out successfully through to reclamation. If it was for these reasons, as well as the Public Law 98-406, the **Arizona Strip Wilderness Act of 1984**, which brought further security to investment in the area, I recommended that VANE invest in this area. In 2009, the Department of Interior (DOI) closed the most promising federal lands to exploration (the “Withdrawal”). VANE had some 675 mining claims, the majority of its land holdings, within the withdrawal area. The result of this action removed VANE’s ability to recover its investment through exploration success and the value of VANE stock subsequently collapsed. VANE continues to maintain that it followed established precedence in investing in its mining claims and was unaware that the DOI might take these lands without warning and without compensation for VANE's investment. Development of hard-rock minerals has long been undertaken through the unpatented mining claim system, which is the only avenue to obtain, control, and protect rights to develop hard-rock minerals on federal lands in the U.S. and has been and continues to be used extensively by corporations and individuals. VANE is now in litigation against the DOI and continues to pay claim maintenance fees to the BLM on the claims taken by the DOI.

## Witnesses Representing Organizations

Name/Organization: Kris Hefton / VANE MINERALS (US) LLC

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h. Any offices, elected positions, or representational capacity held in the organization(s) on whose behalf you are testifying.

Director, VANE Minerals (US) LLC

i. Any federal grants or contracts (including subgrants or subcontracts) from the *Department of the Interior (and /or other agencies invited)* that were received in the current year and previous four years by the organization(s) you represent at this hearing, including the source and amount of each grant or contract for each of the organization(s).

j. A list of all lawsuits or petitions filed by the organization(s) you represent at the hearing against the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit or petition, the subject matter of the lawsuit or petition, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits or petitions were filed for each of the organization(s).

September 25, 2012; VANE MINERALS (US) LLC (Plaintiff) vs. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA acting through its agencies DOI, BLM, DOA, USFS filed in the U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS, and filed under the statute 28 U.S.C. 1491.

VANE filed as INTERVENER in the following lawsuit: January 23, 2012; GREGORY YOUNT (Plaintiff) vs. KEN SALAZAR AND THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, file in the Arizona District Court, and filed under statutes 28 U.S.C. 1331, Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 701 et seq., Federal Land Management and Policy Act, 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.

k. A list of all federal lawsuits filed against the organization(s) you represent at the hearing by the federal government in the current year and the previous four years, giving the name of the lawsuit, the subject matter of the lawsuit, and the federal statutes under which the lawsuits were filed.

l. For tax-exempt organizations and non-profit organizations, copies of the three most recent public IRS Form 990s (including Form 990-PF, Form 990-N, and Form 990-EZ) for each of the organization(s) you represent at the hearing (not including any contributor names and addresses or any information withheld from public inspection by the Secretary of the Treasury under 26 U.S.C. 6104)).