

17 GARY HOLLIS: Good evening. (My name is Gary
18 Hollis and I'm Chairman of the Board of County
19 Commissioners in Nye County, Nevada. We're a sister
20 county to Inyo.

21 As you are well aware, Nye County is the
22 site county for the proposed repository at Yucca
23 Mountain. As commissioners we are responsible for
24 developing county policy as it relates to this
25 project. When communicating that policy, we will
1 communicate that policy to the nuclear waste
2 repository office and they will implement that
3 policy.

4 I appreciate DOE scheduling one of these
5 hearings in Nye County. Nye is a cooperating agency
6 on the supplemental EIS and is pleased to have had
7 the opportunity to work with DOE to ensure that our
8 interest and concerns are included in this document.
9 And although we reserve the right to make additional
10 comments, I do not anticipate any beyond those that I
11 will make today.

12 Nye County will, however, submit formal
13 comments for the record on the rail alignment EIS and
14 anticipate doing that on or before January 10th,
15 2008.

16 First, let me be very clear, let me say that
17 Nye County is the site county for the repository.
18 That decision was made long ago by others. Nye
19 County was not consulted and we had no say in the

20 selection, but regardless of being excluded from the
21 decision making process, as elected officials we have
22 chosen to actively and constructively work with DOE
23 in this process. We are firm in our resolve
24 concerning this, and until the law changes, if it
25 ever does, we believe that we need to do everything
1 in our power to represent our citizens by providing
2 the oversight needed.

3 Number one, protect the health, safety and
4 economic well-being and the quality of life of our
5 residents. Two, protect our environment. Three,
6 ensure the repository operates safely. Four, ensure
7 that whatever transportation system is put in place
8 operates safely and serves to advance opportunities
9 for economic development through all our counties.

10 The Nuclear Waste Policy Act was signed into
11 law in 1982. It was amended in 1987 to make Yucca
12 Mountain the only site, and then Congress formally
13 designated the site in 2002. My colleagues and I
14 refuse to ignore this law and to assume that the
15 state will prevail in its opposition to this project.
16 It would be dangerous and irresponsible not to
17 constructively engage DOE during this process when we
18 have so much to lose by not doing so.

19 The various political leaders on both
20 parties insist that the decision about Yucca Mountain
21 should be based on sound science. Although
22 throughout its independent science oversight program,
23 Nye County has produced approximately \$30 million

24 worth of studies. And what we have observed is that
25 this is not only a technically feasible project, but
1 it can be done and done safely.

2 In fact, we have reasons to believe that the
3 environmental impact of nuclear weapons testing at
4 the Nevada Test Site, which, by the way, is solely
5 within boarders of Nye County, upgraded from Yucca
6 Mountain poses a greater risk to my community than
7 Yucca Mountain will ever.

8 I firmly believe that as long as this
9 repository is a retrievable repository, as opposed to
10 the dump that it has been commonly referred to, we
11 would all be better served if we viewed it as a
12 national energy reserve and its contents as a
13 resource.

14 As I noted previously, Nye County is a
15 cooperative agency in the supplemental EIS. Of
16 particular note in our display in this room is the
17 news release that announces the results of the rail
18 economic study suggesting that west central Nevada
19 could realize significant economic benefit from the
20 construction of a railroad designed to serve the
21 repository.

22 Also included is a position paper prepared
23 by the Savannah River Community Organization that
24 sets forth their views on how important Yucca
25 Mountain is to them in the context of energy
independence and nuclear renaissance and energy

2 policy in general.

3 As can be seen, Yucca Mountain does not
4 stand alone in the arena of the energy policy and
5 economic growth. Many reputable experts and
6 experienced managers and planners in similar areas
7 see the value of this project.

8 In the end Nye County expects that the
9 people who will work at Yucca Mountain will live in
10 Nye County as opposed to riding buses to and from Las
11 Vegas. And when and where it makes sense, we also
12 believe that the businesses and industries associated
13 with the repository should be located in Nye County.

14 Finally, consider that at one time Nevada's
15 political leadership actually endorsed this project
16 and even attempted to segregate the Yucca Mountain
17 site as a separate county, it was called Bullfrog
18 County and the county seat was Carson City.

19 In the context of this contrary policy where
20 responsible governments would have us find solutions
21 as opposed to political opportunities, it can be
22 certain to be said that we were for it before we were
23 against it. As I said earlier, the law is what it
24 is, and until we change it, or the state prevails in
25 court, we intend to remain actively and
1 constructively engaged with DOE to the end.

2 The time has come to either advance or
3 terminate this program based on its merits, but only
4 on its merits. The NRC has been charged with that
5 responsibility, and regardless of one's position,

6 either for or against, we need to see an end to the
7 stalling tactics and politicizing of science and
8 bring this project to a conclusion. } Thank you.