

1 MR. HOLLIS: Good afternoon. [ My  
2 name is Gary Hollis, and I'm chairman of the  
3 board of county commissioners in Nye County,  
4 Nevada. As you are well aware, Nye County is  
5 the site county for the proposed repository at  
6 Yucca Mountain. As commissioners, we are  
7 responsible for developing county policy as it  
8 relates to this project and communicating that  
9 policy to our nuclear waste repository office  
10 to implement.

11 I appreciate DOE scheduling these  
12 hearings. Nye County is a cooperative agency  
13 on the supplement to this EIS, and is pleased  
14 to have had the opportunity to work with DOE  
15 to ensure that our interests and concerns are  
16 included in this document. But we reserve the  
17 right to make additional comments, and  
18 anticipate doing so. As to the rail alignment  
19 EIS, Nye County will submit formal comments  
20 for the record on or before January 10<sup>th</sup>,  
21 2008.

22 First let me say that Nye County

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1 is the site county for this repository. That  
2 decisions were made long ago by others. Nye  
3 County was not consulted and we had no say-so  
4 in its selection. But regardless of being  
5 excluded from this decision making process, as  
6 elected officials, we have chosen to engage  
7 with DOE in this process. We are firm in our  
8 resolve concerning this, and until the law  
9 changes, if it ever does, we believe that we  
10 need to do everything in our power to  
11 represent our citizens by providing oversight  
12 needed to protect the healthy, safety, and  
13 economic well-being and quality of life for  
14 our residents, protect the environment, ensure  
15 that the repository operates safely, ensure  
16 that whatever transport system is put in place  
17 operates safely, and serves to advance  
18 opportunities for economic development  
19 throughout the county.

20 The Nuclear Waste Policy Act was  
21 signed into law in 1982. It was amended in  
22 1987 to make Yucca Mountain the only site.

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1 And then Congress formally designated the site  
2 in 2002. My colleagues and I refuse to ignore  
3 this law and lazily assume the state will  
4 prevail in its opposition to this project. It  
5 would be dangerous and irresponsible not to  
6 constructively engage DOE during this process  
7 when we have so much to lose by not doing so.

8 The various political leaders in both parties  
9 insist that decisions about Yucca Mountain  
10 should be based on sound science.

11 Through its independent scientific  
12 oversight program, Nye County has produced  
13 approximately \$30 million worth of studies.  
14 And what we have observed is that it is not  
15 only a technically feasible project, but can  
16 be done safely. In fact, we have reason to  
17 believe that the environmental impact of  
18 nuclear weapons testing at the Nevada test  
19 site -- which I'd like to point out is also  
20 wholly contained within the borders of Nye  
21 County, northeast of Yucca Mountain -- puts  
22 Nye County citizens -- at least in the

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1 relative near term -- at greater risk than the  
2 repository ever will.

3 I firmly believe that as long as  
4 this is a retrievable repository, as opposed  
5 to a dump -- and that has been so commonly  
6 referred to -- we would all be better served  
7 if it was viewed as a national energy reserve,  
8 and its contents viewed as a resource. As I  
9 noted previously, Nye County is a cooperative  
10 agency in the supplemental EIS. Of particular  
11 note, in our display in the room next door is  
12 a news release that announces the result of a  
13 rail economic study suggesting that west  
14 central Nevada would realize significant  
15 economic benefits from the construction of the  
16 railroad designed to serve the repository.

17 Also included is the position  
18 paper prepared by the Savannah River site  
19 community organization that sets forth their  
20 view of how important Yucca Mountain is to  
21 them in the context of energy independence,  
22 energy sufficiency, and energy policy in

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1 general. As can be seen, Yucca Mountain does  
2 not stand alone in the arena of energy policy  
3 and economic growth. Many reputable experts  
4 and experience managers and planners from  
5 other communities similar to ours see and  
6 understand the value of this project.

7 In the end, Nye County expects  
8 that the people who work at Yucca Mountain  
9 will live in Nye County. We also believe that  
10 the business and industries associated with  
11 the repository should be located in Nye  
12 County. Finally, consider that at one time,  
13 Nevada's political leadership actually  
14 endorsed this project, and even attempted to  
15 segregate the Yucca Mountain site in a  
16 separate county, Bullfrog County. With Carson  
17 City as the county seat and efforts to exclude  
18 Nye County from the potential benefits of this  
19 project.

20 In the context of this policy,  
21 where reasonable government would have us find  
22 solutions, as opposed to political

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1 opportunities. It can certainly be said that  
2 we were for it before we were against it. As  
3 I said earlier, the law is what it is, and  
4 until it changes or the state prevails in  
5 court, we intend to remain actively and  
6 constructively engage with DOE until the end.

7 DOE intends to submit a license application  
8 not later than January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. That  
9 license application process will either  
10 advance or terminate this program based on the  
11 merits, but only the merits.

12 The NRC has been charged with the  
13 responsibility of that judgment, and  
14 regardless of one's position either for or  
15 against, we need to see the end to the  
16 stalling tactics and politicizing of science  
17 and bring this project to a conclusion. } Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. BROWN: Thanks Gary. Jim Hall?  
20 And he will be followed by Daniel Deakhouse  
21 and Brian O'Connell.