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5 MR. BUQO: Good afternoon. My name is Tom Buqo.
6 SEP 30 1999 I reside in Blue Diamond, Nevada.

7 Since August 1996, I've been a consultant with
8 the Nye County Nuclear Waste Project Office on water resource
9 issues.

10 I'm the author of two documents cited in the
11 Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Copies of
12 these reports are available in the Yucca Mountain home page,
13 and portions of these reports have been quoted and misquoted in
14 the Draft EIS.

15 I will be commenting on the portions of the Draft
16 EIS are that are related to water resources.

1 17 The cumulative impacts on water resources will
18 include the direct and indirect impacts of the total
19 radiological burden that will be imposed on Nye County, the
20 impacts of federal land withdrawals on water resource
21 availability, the impacts of federal policies regarding nuclear
22 weapons testing, waste disposal and environmental protection
23 and the water resource use and management practices on both
24 private and federal land in the county.

25 The Department of Energy limited their cumulative

1 analysis to the Jackass Plant hydrographic basin and limited
2 their analysis to only the direct impacts of their water
3 withdrawals from that basin.

4 This approach is inconsistent with the CEQ
5 guidance for considering cumulative impact assessment under
6 NEPA which states, quote: "Analyzing cumulative effects
7 differs from the traditional approach to environmental impact

8 assessment because it requires the analyst to expand the
9 geographic boundaries and extend the time frame to encompass
10 additional effects on the resources, ecosystems and human
11 communities and concern," end quote.

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12 The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986
13 requires the preparation of the Special Nevada Report. This
14 report finalized in September of 1991 contains the description
15 of the current and proposed defense related activities in the
16 State of Nevada, an analysis of their impacts and possible
17 actions that could be taken to mitigate those impacts.

18 The report was prepared jointly by the
19 Departments of the Air Force, Navy and Interior with the
20 Department of Army and Department of Energy listed as
21 cooperating agencies.

22 Per Section 6(B)(1)(D) of the Act, The special
23 Nevada Report was mandated to include the land withdrawn or
24 being considered for withdrawal for use by the Department of
25 Energy.

1 With respect to water resources, the number of
2 impacts were found to result from the cumulative land
3 withdrawals, including the lack of access to potentially
4 developable water resources, water quality impairment, resource
5 consumption by federal agencies and resource competition with
6 non-federal water users.

7 Page 8-97 of the Special Nevada Report states
8 that, quote: "The withdrawal of land for public access and/or
9 the purchase of water rights by DOD and DOE has the greatest
10 potential for effects on Nevada.

11 "The water resources associated with these lands

12 could, if they exist and were available, play an important role
13 in a continued growth of southern Nevada."

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14 The Special Nevada Report was not referenced in
15 the Draft, EIS for Yucca Mountain nor are the direct, indirect
16 or cumulative impacts of federal land withdrawals and water use
17 considered and evaluated.

18 These impacts are significant. The failure of
19 the Draft EIS for Yucca Mountain to incorporate these findings
20 of the Special Nevada Report is a serious inadequacy in the
21 document.

22 The Draft EIS must be revised to include these
23 findings of the Special Nevada Report and must include an
24 evaluation of the cumulative consequences, the land withdrawal
25 for the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. BOOTH: Thank you.