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18 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker,  
19 Commissioner Jeff Taguchi and followed by Bob Davis from Nye  
20 County and then the following speaker will be Maureen  
21 Eldredge.

22 COMMISSIONER TAGUCHI: The Nye County

ESQUIRE DEPOSITION SERVICES

1 citizens for the proposed repository whose primary concern is  
2 the health and safety of its residents remains neutral in its  
3 positions regarding proposed actions. Nonetheless, Nye  
4 County finds that the DEIS, Draft Environmental Impact  
5 Statement, inadequate and calls for a second draft. Nye 6  
County, Nevada citizens for the proposed spent fuel and  
7 high-level waste repository, Nye County would be the most  
8 affected by the transportation and disposal of waste from 77  
9 sites located across the United States.

10 Based upon our initial review of the Draft  
2 11 EIS for Yucca Mountain, Nye County believes that the document  
12 is inadequate and has already called for the preparation of a  
13 second draft or supplemental draft. Our conclusions are  
14 based on the county's data and analysis intended to determine  
15 the impacts that could result from a repository. Copies of  
16 our work which was funded by the department have been  
17 provided to the DOE.

18 The Nye County Board of Commissioners has  
19 taken no position either in favor, or in opposition to the  
20 repository facility at Yucca Mountain. Nye County recognizes  
21 that it cannot affect the outcome decisions regarding the  
22 projects, plus Nye County has approached the Yucca Mountain

1 proposal objectively in order to act in the best interest of  
2 county residents.

3                   Furthermore, as part of its responsibilities  
4 under the NWPA, the county conducts independent oversight in  
5 scientific and demographic investigation of the department's  
6 activities and recognizes that neutrality is a critical  
7 element necessary to ensure the credibility of our programs.  
8 The Nye County Board of Commissioners will continue to remain  
9 neutral on Yucca Mountain until directed otherwise.

3 10 Consistent with our position of neutrality, Nye County 11  
maintains that should the proposed repository at Yucca  
12 Mountain go forward, that it must be done in a safe manner 13  
with no added risk to Nye County citizens. The disposal of  
14 the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste at Yucca  
15 Mountain, one of the most significant federal actions ever  
16 undertaken in terms of cost and magnitude but most important  
17 are the long-term implications for the health and safety of  
18 the present and future generations of Nye County residents.

4... 19                   Nye County recognizes that the permanent  
20 isolation of the waste that are currently in storage at 21  
scores of sites across the United States is an essential 22  
element of our national energy policy. Nye County also

4 cont.

1 recognizes that the disposal of these wastes at Yucca  
2 Mountain will reduce the threats to the national resources  
3 and public dependent upon the resources at these sites.

4 However, the United States must recognize that the risk  
5 reduction in communities across the country will result in  
6 the focusing of those risks on a single jurisdiction, my  
7 jurisdiction, which I live very close to.

8                   The disposal of these waste with a total  
9 radioactive on what the order of 11 billion which we claim to  
10 be up to 14 billion and some say up to 26 billion curies will  
11 most certainly render Nye County vulnerable in contamination  
12 well into the future and will pose a threat of the citizens  
13 in the shadow repository for all practical purposes. For the  
14 laymen's terms, it might be as well be forever.

5...

15                   I am sorry to say the Draft EIS does not  
16 adequately define and evaluate and assess those impacts. In  
17 its review, Nye County found that the department has not  
18 adequately addressed a contribution to cumulative effects of  
19 the resources ecosystems and humanity of the conditions of  
20 the county as a result of the repository Yucca Mountain  
21 impact, including the residual contamination for more than 22  
900 atomic bomb tests have already sacrificed groundwater

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1 resources over more than 250 square miles.

2 Nevada at the site of Air Force bombing  
3 ranges has resulted in millions of dollars lost opportunities  
4 for those lands. Because of its location and characteristic,  
5 Nye County and its residents have been disproportionately  
6 impacted by past and ongoing federal actions. Yucca Mountain  
7 significantly adds to these impacts. Yet, the Draft EIS says  
8 to the DOE suggesting that the Yucca Mountain project is just  
9 another casual federal action with no more impact than  
10 clearing a road through a forest, and nothing could be farther  
11 from the truth.

6...

12 The proposed repository raises a number of  
13 concerns for the citizens of Nye County. These include a  
14 number of transportation issues. National transportation  
15 network shown in the Draft EIS points to the fact shipment of  
16 waste by truck, rail or intermotor routes will funnel all of  
17 the waste shipments through Nye County. The United States  
18 must take all necessary, safely transported and measures to  
19 ensure safe transport are implemented, that Nye County  
20 residents are not subjected to additional risk, whether  
21 radiological or safety related, and Nye County be given the  
22 capability to respond to any accidents within its

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1 jurisdiction.

2                   The transportation analysis and Draft EIS  
3 fails to consider the safety hazards along specific routes.  
4 Furthermore, by not including the mitigation measure required  
5 to safely use these roads for such a shipping campaign, the  
6 department has failed to inform the decision makers of entire  
7 limit of impacts that would accompany repository operations.

8                   MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds.

7                   9                   COMMISSIONER TAGUCHI: Finally, there is a  
10 question of equity risk. High-level wastes aren't going  
11 away. They are going to Nye County. Nye County bears the 12  
burden of which is being reduction to each of the counties 13  
where the spent fuel and DOE facilities are located, just as 14  
they must bear the legacy of more than 300 million curies  
15 radioactivity left from the nuclear waste. Once again, Nye  
16 County is being called upon inherent risk, stigma for all 17  
practical purposes forever. This will conclude my  
18 statements. I will tenure the final draft into the record.

19                   MR. LAWSON: By the way, I understand the  
20 desire to get as many words in five minutes as possible, and  
21 we have to work this out so that obviously we get the  
22 comments on the record. If you do have written comments and

1 you are going to go well over the five minutes, I would ask  
2 you to summarize your comments or at least toward the end  
3 submit the final -- all the rest of them in written form so 4  
that we will have it on the record. I just -- I hate to cut  
5 people off. I really don't want to do that. I don't like to  
6 limit people's comments, but as you can see, we have a full  
7 room, and we have to move ahead. Our next speaker is  
8 Commissioner Bob Davis, and Commissioner Davis would be  
9 followed by Maureen Eldredge and Dennis Nester.