

RECEIVED

NOV 04 1999

EIS000362

17 MR. KALISH: Good afternoon. My name is Steven
18 Kalish. I live in Bishop, California, and I want to
19 welcome you to California. I'm not sure you intended to
20 come here, but we're very glad you did.

21 I would like to think and I would like to
22 say that we're centrally located here between Reno and Los
23 Angeles/Las Vegas and San Francisco, the center of our
24 universe, and it's not very far from Yucca Mountain.

25 My comments are brief, informal, and rather

|

1 homespun. They are directed to the people here that are
2 working on the EIS.

3 I understand you had a beautiful drive from
4 Las Vegas yesterday. On that drive you certainly must have
5 seen evidence of complex geological processes, perhaps a
6 little bit more beat up, a little bit more complicated than
7 the ones around Yucca Mountain, but not very far from Yucca
8 Mountain.

1... 9 I want to relate a little story of living
10 over here and the kind of geology we have. I had the
11 pleasure a year or so ago of having a couple of PhD
12 geologists stay with me and my wife at our home, which
13 overlooks the Owens Valley. And over a period of a couple
14 days, they spent most of their time out on our terrace
15 discussing what they saw, discussing earthquake faulting,
16 discussing -- who knows what they were discussing. It
17 wasn't real clear to us what they were discussing.

18 But after a couple days of this, two
19 white-haired PhD geology professors, both have worked for
20 the oil companies at one point in their lives, my wife
21 asked one of them, the older one, she says, "So, Claude,
22 what is it you see when you look out here at what's around
23 this area in the Owens Valley?" He says, "I see a real
24 mess." And it seems to me that says a lot about what you
25 can know of geological processes and about what's out here

1 cont.

1 and what's here between here and Yucca Mountain, and that
2 that should temper the kind of judgments you make about how
3 stable and how reliable the country is for what's being
4 proposed to be done to it.

5 While you're here, if you haven't done so
6 already, I would urge you to go about one-third of a mile
7 up the road and visit the graveyard of the earthquake for
8 the victims of the 1872 earthquake in Lone Pine, which I
9 don't see in your Draft EIS. It was one of the two or
10 three or perhaps the largest earthquake ever in the United
11 States. It would certainly have been very well felt at
12 Yucca Mountain.

13 And I'm troubled that when you -- that
14 you've limited your earthquake evaluation to 30 kilometers
15 of the mountain. We know. We feel them all the time,
16 large earthquakes, and we're only 100 miles by air from
17 Yucca Mountain. I would like to see that scale in time and
18 space of your evaluation relative to hydrology and
19 volcanism and earthquakes expanded to an area that
20 certainly could impact the Yucca Mountain site in the
21 not-too-distant future.

2...

22 I would also encourage you, on your way
23 back, to consider driving north through Bishop and up to
24 Mono Lake. And as you approach Mono Lake, you'll see some
25 very young cinder cones that are -- some of them are only

EIS000362

2 cont.

1 500 years old.

2 When I looked in your EIS, it talked about
3 volcanism and the basin and range having stopped about 75
4 thousand years ago. In all of your studies, the potential
5 for a volcano erupting within the Yucca Mountain region
6 seems to be dismissed as something long ago. They thought
7 that the cinder cones around Mono Lake were quite a bit
8 older until very recently, and now they have decided they
9 are only 500 to 750 years old.

10 The USGS is sitting on volcanic activity in
11 the caldera at Mammoth Lakes. It's my personal hope that,
12 and I would be very disappointed, in fact, if within the
13 next ten or 20 or 30 years, during my lifetime certainly,
14 we don't get a nice new cinder cone at the intersection of
15 Highways 203 and 395 in the vicinity of the Mammoth Lakes
16 Airport. I would really like to see that. It wouldn't
17 be -- there are a lot of people who wouldn't. But it's not
18 the kind of disaster that's human and man-made. It would
19 be a natural event. It would be an act of God, and that,
20 to me, also is indicative of the kind of activities that
21 are happening in the Yucca Mountain region, but not as you
22 have defined it in the 30-kilometer radius.

23 I'm also concerned, of course, about
24 hydrology and transportation. If I can just make a couple
25 sort of indigenous comments. You went by Bad Water, aptly

if

1 MR. SKIPPER: Thank you.

2 THE FACILITATOR: Dorthy Alther.