

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF RAY RUSS RECEIVED

DEC 01 1999

MR. RUSS: Hi. My name is Ray Russ. I'm from San Francisco.

I drove up this way with the intent of making comments, but after listening to so many people here, I think I'll probably defer to at a later time, at least most of them. That and the fact that as a researcher, as a physicist that is working directly with research involving vitrification processes, I think I want to just try not to detract from the very real passions that I feel here, and I feel somewhat ambivalent as far as feeling like I'm on one side or the other because I have comments to make on both sides.

1 I guess my big comment is that being familiar with much of the science that's going on at Yucca Mountain, I feel secure in the knowledge that it's good science, it's solid science, and it is revealing a lot to us. Some of which I think is positive, others, other points I think are negative.

My own personal feelings about the issues related to nuclear waste and getting rid of it comes in the form of an analogy such as this gentleman spoke of earlier. Although my analogy is that it seems to me that the tiger is in the house, and how that tiger got there is not so much important as how we choose to deal with it.

And dealing with it I think takes many facets. It takes our government, it takes our citizenry, it takes scientists, it takes housewives, it takes neighbors, it takes everybody. And I'm really glad to see that a good section of that everybody is represented here today.

2... But I guess kind of changing my tact as far as what I would really like to comment on is the fact that coming up here and driving five hours, the distance of 200 something miles to get here, I feel like that there are a lot of my neighbors back home that have not been afforded the opportunity to comment publicly on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement. They have not been afforded the opportunity to express to their governments, to our leaders, their opinions on an issue that involves a project that is currently proposed to operate for a hundred years, for three generations, that will involve some of the most profound issues that we as a society face today leading on into the new millennium. And I feel really bad about that.

I feel that the Department of Energy has let us down as a whole by tailoring these public comment periods to very small towns in Nevada, for reasons of which I understand. A lot of them seem to be transportation corridors or proposed transportation corridors. But it seems to me that a larger body of the citizenry is being denied access to speaking their hearts and their minds about the project.

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And I would just like to go on record as a citizen in voicing my profound disappointment and my profound sorrow that during this comment period that more people are not being allowed -- I shouldn't say allowed -- but more people are not having the facilities made available to them to speak their points of view, regardless of what that point of view is, about this very very important issue.

So I'll just sum that up and say thank you very much for having it and that I'm very glad that I was able to make it today. But I know that there are a lot of people out there that aren't privileged, that don't have that luxury. They don't have the car. They don't have the bus fare. They don't have whatever.

And I hope that in some small measure that I can speak for them in asking that the comment period be expanded and that other cities, other areas be considered as far as possibly extending the period.]

Thank you very much.

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