

11 NOV 09 1999 MR. KEATON: My name is Hal Keaton. I'm a  
12 resident of Pioche, Nevada.

1 13 I browsed through the DEIS and certainly didn't  
14 read all of it. Some of the things that jumped out at me was  
15 the fact that there is no provision for emergency medical  
16 services.

17 In the event that there's some kind of a -- an  
18 accident where rad -- radiation would leak out into the  
19 atmosphere, immediate attention is called for; certain  
20 procedures have to be done. They have to be done quickly.

21 We in Lincoln County don't have the facilities to  
22 do that. We don't have a hospital. We don't have trained  
23 personnel to handle those things.

24 We had testimony earlier today -- excuse me --  
25 from one of the EMTs that they have no training what so far in  
1 the area of radiation. This is of a great concern of mine.

2 Back in the 1950s, I lived in a mining camp,  
3 Bristol Silver Mine. This is during the time that the Atomic  
4 Energy Commission and the DOE was doing atmospheric testing.

5 The radiation fallout came over much of this  
6 county. It came over Bristol Silver Mine, Alamo, Nyala. Just  
7 about any place you'd want to go in Lincoln County, there was  
8 contamination of one kind of another.

9 The incident rate of cancer in this County -- I  
10 believe -- I don't have the statistical facts, but I know that  
11 it's very high, and I am sure that if someone wanted to take  
12 the time to research it, they would find that it's much higher  
13 than the national average.

14 When I lived at Bristol Silver Mine, I used to  
15 watch the atomic testing from the side of the mountain where we

16 lived. You could see the flashes in the early morning hours  
17 when it was dark. The sky lit up like it was daylight.

18 Later on in the day when the sun did come up and  
19 we had daylight, you could see the mushroom cloud and it would  
20 drift over the top of us, drift to the south and north of us.

21 We didn't know at the time that that was a highly  
22 contaminated cloud of radiation. We were told that it was very  
23 safe, nothing would worry about.

24 So we took them at their word, we took the  
25 Federal Government at their word and we didn't worry about it.

1 As time went on, we found that there was a great  
2 amount of reason for concern. We found that out of the  
3 thirteen members in my family, that eight of them had cancer,  
4 had been diagnosed with cancer over the years, and many of our  
5 friends and other family, distant family members have been  
6 diagnosed with cancer. My wife's father and mother.

7 The Federal Government didn't want to take any --  
8 any blame for this, so they did research, and they did find  
9 that some of these cancers were caused by radiation fallout,  
10 and they compensated some people, but in their infinite wisdom,  
11 they -- they decided which people would be compensated and  
12 which ones wouldn't.

13 My wife's father was compensated, so we -- I take  
14 that as an act of admission that there was a link there.

2 15 I -- I really, really have some great, serious  
16 concerns about whether or not we in this County want to expose  
17 ourselves again. We went through it once. We listened to the  
18 government. They told us everything's okay, and they're  
19 telling us that again. I really wonder if it's something we  
20 should believe.

21 I have a copy of a videotape that I'd like to  
22 have submitted as -- as part of my testimony. The title of one  
23 of the programs on here is called: "Nevada, Fallout, the Hot  
24 Years." It covered covers that period of time when the nuclear  
25 atmospheric testing was going on, and then there's another  
1 program that's part of a "60 Minutes" segment which was done on  
2 the Kischtime. I hope I pronounced that right, Kischtime,  
3 Russia accident where there was a situation where the Russian  
4 government produced nuclear material.

5 They took the waste off that nuclear material and  
6 they buried it, and after a period of time, there was a  
7 reaction, there was a lot of heat involved, a reaction and the  
8 thing blew up.

9 Now, whether or not this is exactly the same type  
10 of material that we want to bury, I don't know. I'm not a  
11 scientist, I'm not an engineer or I don't have a crystal ball,  
3 12 but [I do want to say that I personally am opposed to bringing  
13 any nuclear waste into this county and this state.]

14 MR. LAWSON: Thirty seconds, please.

15 MR. KEATON: [You know, the DOE knows that the  
4 16 safest way to handle nuclear waste is to don't handle it.  
17 Leave it where it is.]

18 Thank you very much.