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STAN SIMS: Thank you for visiting Nye County this evening to provide us with the opportunity to give preliminary comments on the supplemental impact statement.

My name is Stan Sims, S-i-m-s, and I am Assistant Project Administrator of the Nye County Department of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities.

Nye County staff is still reviewing the supplemental DEIS and its companion document, the Science and Engineering Report. And so tonight I'm providing a very brief set of preliminary remarks. The County will try to follow up on tonight's oral remarks with formal written comments by the DOE stated deadline, if at all possible.

- 1 That brings up the County's first remark. The County's first remark is, in fact, a request to extend the comment deadline by at least 45 days. We documented that remark also as soon as the SDEIS came out. This would allow the County staff and residents adequate time to review, understand and prepare comments on the supplemental DEIS.

Although the Supplement is a brief document, it is not a stand-alone report. To understand and assess the environmental impact of newly proposed flexible designed repository, reviewers must also review the companion document, the Science and Engineering Report, which is quite voluminous and complex.

Nye County believes that the given size and technical nature of these two reports, the 45 day comment period is unreasonable and should be extended. It's unfair to DOE stakeholders to expect review of these two technical documents to be completed in such a short period.

- 2 Since the County has not yet completed its review, my remaining remarks will be brief. One, the introduction of a surface aging facility, in quotes, will increase the complexity of the waste handling, increase bare fuel handling activities, increase radioactivity waste generation, and one would expect and it would increase both worker and public risk.

However, it is somehow mitigated since the risk predicted for this new design are predicted to decrease with this new design. That's a bit confusing. The DEIS needs to explain how this risk is decreased.

- 3 Although the Science and Engineering Report discloses that normal events could occur at the surface aging facility and waste handling building, there is no discussion of the types of normal events, their probability of occurrence or the potential consequences to workers, the public or the environment. The DEIS needs to identify these possibly events and their consequences.

- 4 Three, the SEIS continues to perpetuate the myth that Nye County is static. Growth in Nye County is now well documented by the results of the 2000 census. Simply updating from the '99 is not adequate. And plans for development along the US-95 corridor and the Amargosa Valley, that's right up here at the intersection of 373 and 95, continues to move forward. The current demographic trend must be recognized and appropriately considered in the SEIS.
- 5 The increased need for energy, this is the last one, the increased need for energy at the proposed repository is addressed by the introduction of an ad hoc solar generation facility. This is a new wrinkle. Nye County notes that such a facility should be integrated into other regional planning efforts.

And this is just the end of my short statement. This is really all we've had time to review. Hopefully you'll consider the 45-day extension that really is necessary to review these two documents.