

O. Q. Chris Johnson

RECEIVED

OCT 03 2001

MR. O.Q. CHRIS JOHNSON: Well, my name is O.Q

8 Chris Johnson and I am a resident of Elko County. I have
9 been here since 1982. I am a businessman, an electrical
10 contractor and refrigeration and air conditioning
11 contractor.

12 I am also chairman of the Nevada Committee for
13 Full Statehood. That is a committee which is studying the
14 ownership of all of the unsold, unappropriated lands in the
15 state of Nevada.

16 And we claim that, according to the
17 Constitution, all of these unsold and unappropriated lands
18 within the state actually belong to the State of Nevada.

19 Even though they are controlled and managed by
20 the BLM, we feel that the BLM is usurping State authority
21 and that Nevada needs to stand up and exercise sovereignty
22 and to make the United States fully aware of the fact that
23 these lands do, in fact, belong to the State of Nevada.

24 The reason this became quite interesting is
25 because part of Yucca Mountain, I understand, resides on
0012

1 land that was withdrawn from BLM management and turned over
2 to the Yucca Mountain Project.

3 Maybe that is not stated quite correctly, but
4 that is the way I understand it.

5 If that is the case, then that land that is
6 supposedly owned by or controlled and managed by the BLM,
7 that is actually state land. So Yucca Mountain is sitting
8 on state property. Yucca Mountain may actually belong to
9 the State of Nevada.

10 From that standpoint, I thoroughly believe
11 that the State of Nevada, through our executives in Carson
12 City, need to have a much larger say on the management and
13 the development of the mountain for a site to store nuclear
14 waste materials from around the country.

15 Now, my personal point of view, I am fully in
16 favor of the Yucca Mountain Project going forward as
17 planned. Because, to me, the waste fuel, the spent fuel
18 from the nuclear reactors and from our Navy fleet, from the
19 reactors aboard our submarines and aircraft carriers,
20 constitutes a whole new resource for the State of Nevada.

21 That is why Nevada needs to have more of a --
22 needs to have more control over the storage and ultimate
23 use of that waste material. So I am in favor.

24 I believe that that location, the Yucca
25 Mountain location, could ultimately be a -- possibly the
0013

O. Q. Chris Johnson

1 third largest industry in the state of Nevada, ranking just
2 behind mining and tourism.

3 I think tourism is first, mining is second.

4 That could very easily be the third or maybe the fourth
5 behind agriculture. But nevertheless, a very important
6 resource and crucial to the economic development of the
7 central part of the state.

8 I believe that further study needs to be done
9 on just exactly who owns the land, who owns the mountain.
10 Because, from our research, it looks as though the State of
11 Nevada does own at least a portion of the mountain.

12 And so we need to all verify one way or the
13 other and sit down and discuss the matter intelligently and
14 give Nevada its due responsibility in the development and
15 the course of the project.

Chris J. Johnson

MR. CHRIS J. JOHNSON: I have been a Nevada
19 resident all my life. I have listened to data from my days
20 at UNR and also had the opportunity to listen to two
21 presentations at Elko Rotary Club.

22 It seems that the project is going as well as
23 it can and that the State needs to be cautious of economic
24 impacts, which I don't think will be a problem.

25 The bottom line is that I am in favor of the
0014

1 Yucca Mountain Project and hope to see it come to light to
2 benefit Nevada.