

6 CASH JASZCZAK: [Cash Jaszczak for Nye County
7 Nuclear Waste Repository project office, represent
8 the interests of the Nye County Board of County
9 Commissioners.

10 I want to thank DOE for having this
11 meetings. And these hearings continue to be advised
12 that we've been a cooperating agency on the
13 supplement EIS, and a great majority of our interests
14 have been pursued in that vein. And we will have
15 significant comments on the rail alignment EIS and
16 those formal remarks will be made by the appropriate
17 deadline.

18 Everybody knows that Nye County is the site
19 county for the repository. That decision was made by
20 others elsewhere and designated by Congress in July
21 of 2002. Nye County's elected officials have
22 pragmatically engaged DOE to actively and
23 constructively be involved in the process.

24 The law is what the law is, and until that
25 changes, if it ever does, Nye County believes it
1 needs to do what it can to see to it that the
2 interests of the citizens of Nye County, the
3 protection of their health, safety economic
4 well-being of the residents and the environment are
5 taken care of, seeing to it that the repository
6 operates safely and successfully and ensure that
7 transportation is done safely and that transportation
8 provides an opportunity for economic development for

9 the citizens of Nye County, and for that matter for
10 all of Nevada. These are impacts and the law
11 requires that impacts be mitigated. We'll record our
12 comments as to what those are exactly.

13 The Nuclear Waste Policy Act was enacted in
14 1982, amended in 1987 to make Yucca Mountain the only
15 site characterized, and Congress designated the site
16 in 2002. Ignoring the law and assuming that the
17 state will prevail in its opposition would be
18 irresponsible on the part of Nye County's elected
19 officials.

20 Various political leaders of both parties
21 insist that decisions on Yucca Mountain be made on
22 sound science. Nye County has done over \$30 million
23 worth of science, and all the science that Nye County
24 has done and the science that we have observed tell
25 us that Yucca Mountain is a technically feasible
1 project.

2 In fact, we have some cause to believe, and
3 perhaps we share this with Inyo County, this is in my
4 opinion, that the environmental insult to the nuclear
5 weapons program primarily contained within Nye County
6 borders at the Nevada Test Site puts us, at least in
7 the nearest term, at greater risk than the repository
8 will at any time that we can imagine.

9 As long as it is a retrievable repository as
10 opposed to a dump, it has the potential as a national
11 energy reserve. We want to be part of the solution
12 as opposed to part of the problem, and we'll work to

13 do that.

14 As the site county, Nye has participated as
15 a cooperating agency in the supplemental EIS. At our
16 display back there in the right, we have a
17 considerable amount of material to share. Of
18 particular note are news releases which announces the
19 results of a rail economic study that Nye County had
20 done on behalf of our impact analysis and impact
21 mitigation effort. That rail economic study suggests
22 that west central Nevada, and the mention was made
23 earlier by one of our other speakers, could realize
24 significant economic benefit from the construction of
25 a railroad to serve the repository.

1 We also have a position paper that was
2 prepared by the Savannah River Site Community Reuse
3 Organization that explains their view of how Yucca
4 Mountain affects Georgia and South Carolina and their
5 view of how important Yucca Mountain is to energy,
6 energy independence, energy efficiency, the nuclear
7 renaissance and energy policy in general.

8 These are views that are shared by the rest
9 of America, and there are more views than those of us
10 just here in Nevada. It is rather ironic that at one
11 point in time Nevada's political leadership endorsed
12 the project and even attempted to make the Yucca
13 Mountain site a separate county -- Bullfrog Country.
14 Once again, we were for it before we were against it.

15 As I said earlier, the law is what it is.

16 And until it changes or the state prevails in the
17 courts, we have to be engaged from a Nye County
18 perspective. We can't leave this to chance and end
19 up abrogating the responsibility of the elected
20 leaders of Nye County.

21 We expect the people who ultimately work at
22 Yucca Mountain to live in Nye County, and we hope
23 that the businesses and industries associated with
24 the repository be located in Nye County. }

25 As I said earlier, these are just some
1 preliminary comments. We'll have formal comments for
2 the record primarily on the rail alignment EIS.

3 Thank you very much.