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PUBLIC MEETING

Yakima Basin Storage Study  
Draft Planning Report/EIS

Thursday, February 28, 2008  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Three Rivers Convention Center  
7016 West Grandridge Boulevard  
Rooms G & H  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

John Evans  
Hearing Officer

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1 ORAL COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

2

3	NAME	PAGES
4	VINCE PANESKO	4 - 7
5	BOB SCHWEIGHARDT	7 - 10
6	FRED STRONG	10 - 14
7	ART KING	14 - 16
8	PATRICIA BUTLER	16 - 17
9	DUANE FALETTI	17 - 20
10	PETE GIER	20 - 21
11	HARLAN HALL	21 - 22
12	DAVID RUPE	22 - 24
13	CHARLIE de LA CHAPELLE	24 - 27
14	BRAD TONER	27 - 28
15	MIKE LUZZO	29 - 30
16	CAROLE BYRD	31 - 33
17	JACK DAWSON	33 - 35

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1 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Good afternoon.

2 If we can get started. I'd like to welcome everyone  
3 here.

4 This is the public hearing for the Draft Planning  
5 Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the Yakima  
6 River Basin Storage Water Feasibility Study. My name  
7 is John Evans. I'm with the Bureau of Reclamation.

8 This document was prepared jointly by the Bureau  
9 of Reclamation and the Washington State Department of  
10 Ecology. Derek Sandison is here representing the  
11 Department of Ecology.

12 Before you speak, I'd like to make a couple  
13 notes. We have a court reporter, and she will be  
14 recording all your oral comments. If she can't hear  
15 you or understand you, she'll stop you and ask you to  
16 speak a little clearer. When you come up, state your  
17 name, spell your last name, and supply your address  
18 for the record. And then if you're reading off  
19 written comments, we ask that you leave them with the

20 court reporter so we get those as well for the record.

21 If you have cell phones or beepers or anything,

22 put them on vibrate or turn them off so we don't get

23 disturbed.

24 Okay. Each speaker will have five minutes. At

25 four minutes time, we'll hold up a yellow card

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1       signifying that you have one minute left. And then at  
2       five minutes, we'll ask you to stop.

3           If you don't wish to give oral comments today, we  
4       will still take comments until March 31st. You can  
5       submit those written comments to Reclamation. You can  
6       send them by fax or e-mail, and the address and stuff  
7       are on the comment sheets that are on the table as you  
8       came in.

9           So I think with that, we'll start with our first  
10       speaker, and that will be Vince Panesko.

11

12                           VINCE PANESKO

13           I'm Vince Panesko, and that's spelled  
14       P-A-N-E-S-K-O. My address is 1114 Marshal Avenue in  
15       Richland. I'm retired after working at Hanford for 40  
16       some years. I have some comments.

17           I support the Bureau's analysis that shows this  
18       Black Rock Reservoir is not economically viable. In  
19       fact, your numbers are still too optimistic at 16 cent

20 value return for every dollar of taxpayer money spent.

21 One of the reasons your numbers are still too  
22 optimistic is you show credit for selling drinking  
23 water to the local communities, 256 some million on  
24 there, and this is a not a flow through reservoir  
25 where you have a creek flowing through it, or a river,

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1 like the dams on the Columbia River, or like Rimrock,  
2 where you have -- the Rimrock Dam, where you have a  
3 river flowing through it.

4 You're going to be experiencing problems here  
5 like some of the dams in Oregon that are storage dams  
6 that toxins build up in it, molds and things. And so  
7 you're not going to get -- you won't have quality  
8 drinking water that you can sell to local communities.  
9 So your analysis is off on that regard. So it's even  
10 worse, the payback on that is even worse than you  
11 think.

12 My experience at Hanford, I was for five years in  
13 charge of groundwater monitoring, environmental  
14 protection, and I want to leave you, the Bureau, with  
15 this understanding: That we have over 200 sites where  
16 we put radioactive material into the ground, and we  
17 monitor the groundwater. When the groundwater reached  
18 drinking water level, we would turn that crib off and  
19 put it out and build a new crib.

20           So you have vadose zone all the way down to the  
21           rainy water holding radioactive materials, and the  
22           chemistry of these are really not well known. The  
23           vadose zone goes down 200 and some feet. This 200  
24           feet of contamination is not going to be removed. The  
25           DOE is considering putting a cap over it, and that's

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1 really raising a lot of concerns, that a lot of  
2 contamination to that area is going to be there  
3 forever, and all the sudden we have leakage and  
4 seepage from this Black Rock pushing some of this  
5 contamination into the Columbia River.

6 On one hand, you have the Department of Energy  
7 saying that this is going to be safe for 500 years,  
8 1,000 years, 10,000 years. On the other hand, you  
9 have another branch of the government coming along  
10 putting in a dam that's going to have leakage  
11 affecting this.

12 So already -- You know, we were challenging DOE,  
13 saying you guys you can't prove that this is going to  
14 be safe for 500 years. Well, it turns out they can't  
15 even prove it's going to be safe for ten years if you  
16 put this dam in.

17 You're moving contamination into the river.  
18 You've got one branch of the government trying to keep  
19 contamination on site and you've got another branch of

20 the government coming in doing something that hurts

21 Hanford. So this is really backwards.

22 I really strongly am opposed to having anything

23 that affects the contamination at Hanford. And I

24 really recommend that the Bureau and the Department of

25 Energy get together on this thing and just put this to

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1 a stop right now. You have to protect this  
2 contamination in perpetuity at Hanford.

3 So I guess those are the key points that I'd like  
4 to make. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

6 Your next speaker is going to be Bob  
7 Schweighardt.

8

9 BOB SCHWEIGHARDT

10 Thank you, John. It's interesting to hear  
11 Vince and meet him for the first time in my life. And  
12 I want to thank the audience out here. It's hard to  
13 know who I am and what I represent.

14 My name is Bob Schweighardt. The last name has  
15 12 letters, S-C-H-W-E-I-G-H-A-R-D-T. And I live at  
16 Yellowstone Avenue in Kennewick, with my wife, who's  
17 still teaching in the Kennewick district. I'm a  
18 retired physics math teacher, and I wonder how crazy I  
19 am or am not.

20 For the last 20 years, I've been interested in  
21 the transportation and water needs of our dear state.  
22 We moved up here in 1983 after I retired from southern  
23 California. And just too long a story in five minutes  
24 to try and give any detail.

25 The report that my colleague and I issued the

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1 last time, about five years ago, in such a meeting  
2 like this before boards and agencies and ports that I  
3 personally have spoken to, at least a score of them,  
4 and our report was about this thick (indicating) of  
5 native swan. And I picked up their report, about a  
6 third of it at least. I may get worn out before I get  
7 done with this battle that's been going on for a long  
8 time.

9 The thing I like about that, it's like political  
10 parties. There are two parties, and generally one is  
11 right and one is wrong on the issue. It's our job to  
12 find out which side is the truest to the truth. And I  
13 know this: The people that I have been speaking in  
14 opposition with are some of the nicest, sincere  
15 people, sincere as I'm trying to be, but there are  
16 agendas and we've had a hard time getting together,  
17 but I do respect them.

18 And I'd like to just ask a couple questions, to  
19 get a little perspective. How big is Black Rock Dam?

20 How does it compare in size to the Grand Coulee Dam?

21 It's bigger. The Grand Coulee is not a little dam up

22 the river. It's one of the biggest in the world.

23 This one will be bigger than that.

24 The seismologic conditions that were supplied for

25 Black Rock is tenuous geologically and

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1 seismologically. And that's easy to say. I wonder if  
2 I'm correct. You have to find those things out.

3 Where is this dam going to be located? It's  
4 going to be located at an elevation that is higher  
5 than the lake behind Grand Coulee. And they're having  
6 the water flow down the Columbia River. They're going  
7 to then pump it up over 1,000, possibly 1,500 feet,  
8 and they say the farmers are going to pay for it.

9 According to the author of the Cadillac Desert,  
10 he says anything over 500 feet, you can wipe the  
11 farmers off for consideration. Does that sound  
12 reasonable to you?

13 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: One minute  
14 left.

15 MR. BOB SCHWEIGHARDT: And we are at four  
16 minutes?

17 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: One minute  
18 left.

19 MR. BOB SCHWEIGHARDT: And I sound like the

20 critics of the Tieton Dam before it collapsed, and  
21 this dam is going to be on the order of probably a  
22 hundred times bigger than that dam that collapsed.  
23 And the critics were correct. There was loss of life  
24 and loss of economics down the river. That was about  
25 the '70's? I wasn't living up here then, at that

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1 time.

2 But I just bring to you -- In five minutes you  
3 cannot say anything greatly intelligent and  
4 constructive all the time, but I hope that it will  
5 tickle your imagination just a little bit. And sure  
6 there is a lot more than meets the eye here. And I've  
7 talked with these people over and over, and they're  
8 wearing me down. They are wearing me down.

9 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Time is up,  
10 Mr. Schweighardt.

11 MR. BOB SCHWEIGHARDT: Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

13 MR. BOB SCHWEIGHARDT: I have to leave for  
14 another meeting. Just in time.

15 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Your next  
16 speaker is Fred Strong.

17

18 FRED STRONG

19 My name is Fred Strong. The last name is

20 S-T-R-O-N-G. If you don't mind, I'm going to face the  
21 audience as well, if that's okay.

22 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Okay.

23 MR. FRED STRONG: Thank you for the  
24 opportunity to present before you today. There are a  
25 lot of things that are talked about in relation to

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1 development. But from a Native American's  
2 perspective, I think that we have been on record since  
3 the development began opposing dams, ditches,  
4 diversions, railroads. Everything that was meant to  
5 change and improve America was harmful to native  
6 culture. It destroyed our religions, it destroyed  
7 salmon runs.

8       And each step of the way the government, whether  
9 it was federal, state or otherwise, said, We're going  
10 to replace them for you. Today we haven't had any  
11 fish replaced. There were six stocks of salmon that  
12 used to thrive in the Yakima River Basin, and today  
13 there are only three. And of those three, the most  
14 robust run is only three percent of what it used to be  
15 at the signing of our treaty. The other three stocks  
16 have been extricated. They no longer exist. And each  
17 step of the way, when you look at the record, the  
18 tribe was promised, The next time we have development,  
19 it will be for the fish.

20           This study started out supposed to be for the  
21           fish. Fish aren't even included in there. When you  
22           look at those bar graphs over there, it talks about 28  
23           percent of an increase for the existing stocks in the  
24           Yakima River Basin. The numbers there are estimated  
25           at 40,000 salmon.

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1           What used to be in the Yakima River Basin was on  
2           average 750,000 salmon. That was because we had a  
3           natural run river. A normative river is the only  
4           thing that will support salmon. It creates the  
5           habitat, it creates the instream flow and the cooler  
6           river conditions.

7           We have a recharge of the Yakima River Basin  
8           right now that is done with warm water, and warm  
9           waters create pathogens that are destructive to  
10          salmon. The natural recharge of the Yakima River came  
11          in the wintertime, when the water was cool, and those  
12          things that were all done were helpful to the salmon.

13          We've had biologists, scientists, engineers  
14          galore in the Yakama Nation. They become educated,  
15          they learn about our culture, they pledge support, and  
16          then they become government employees, and they become  
17          almost anethopathical to the Yakama Nation.

18          We don't have any longer, the long-term outlook  
19          that people really need in order to be supportive of

20 what is called a natural river system. Black Rock  
21 represents off-river storage. All the other  
22 developments are within the river. You cannot support  
23 damming and diversion in river.

24 This is off river and it allows the closure of  
25 two of the biggest irrigation diversions, estimated

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1 average of 700,000 acre-feet of water. That is what  
2 fish need. They don't need billions of dollars. They  
3 don't need anything else. They need water. And so  
4 long as the water is withheld from them and it's  
5 convenient to say it costs too much, but what did it  
6 cost those salmon.

7 The things that are sacred, that are a blessed  
8 part of the creation, they paid with their very  
9 existence. Tribal people have a right to their  
10 religion, the practice of their culture, their  
11 traditions. That's rich. It's called the fiber of  
12 America. This fabric that we have is supposed to be a  
13 part of the diversity.

14 Not diverging a lot, but we go across the ocean  
15 to protect the sovereignty of Iraqi people, spending  
16 trillions of dollars. And we talk about the Yakama  
17 Nation as sovereignty and sacredness, its very  
18 extensive, and we say six billion dollars is too much.

19 This study started out \$1.8 billion. Then it

20       excalated to 2.5, and then four and a half, and now

21       six.

22               HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: One minute.

23               MR. FRET STRONG: But that's government

24       management. If this were contracted out to the

25       private sector -- And here in the Tri-Cities we have

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1 the most beautiful example of engineering and science.

2 When you drive through the community, you have  
3 \$500,000 homes. It came from engineering and science.

4 The entire community came from engineering and  
5 science.

6 If we can't build that reservoir, and if we can't  
7 do it in a way that's safe for the environment and  
8 people, then we have no business being the Tri-Cities  
9 that we are.

10 But I just want to say I encourage the continued  
11 improvements, and the criticisms are helpful, and  
12 hopefully in time we'll have some kind of consensus  
13 that allows the environment, the economy, agriculture,  
14 fish and farmers to all live and work together  
15 successfully. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

17 I think we'd like to have the speakers facing  
18 front. It's easier for the court reporter and for us,  
19 so.

20 Our next speaker will be Art King.

21

22 ART KING

23 Good afternoon. I'm Art King, K-I-N-G, and

24 I am a resident of Richland, and I'm also a member of

25 the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance, and we are

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1 advocating to build Black Rock.

2 One of my concerns -- My understanding on the  
3 study is that it stops at the shoreline, and my  
4 concern with that is that Tri-Cities is kind of left  
5 out of the equation when that happens. There's a  
6 direct impact to the economy here with development of  
7 the resort that we believe that could be built there.

8 And also the fact if there was a resort there, you  
9 have a deep water reservoir that will attract tourism  
10 and development, and that will be money brought into  
11 the economy mainly. And there would be people from  
12 California and the rest of Washington State and Oregon  
13 and Idaho and the rest of the Northwest. So I think  
14 your study ignores that.

15 And the other thing that's ignored a little  
16 bit -- When you look at the pictures here, if you  
17 understand where the location is, it's around 30  
18 minutes from downtown Yakima, it's about 35 minutes  
19 from downtown Richland. And I think the people in the

20 Tri-Cities need to understand the impact that would  
21 have on the economy here, and I think that's a little  
22 bit ignored, even with the pictures that are over  
23 there. I know you didn't mean to do that, but we have  
24 some pictures outside that you need to look at to  
25 evaluate how close it is to the Tri-Cities.

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1           And another comment I have is on the seepage. I  
2           believe PNNL was doing a study on that. Is that not  
3           correct?

4           HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Yes.

5           MR. ART KING: Okay. Well, what is the  
6           status of that?

7           HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: I'm not sure.

8           MR. ART KING: You know, that would be good  
9           to be a part of this. We talk about seepage, and I  
10          think everybody is concerned, but nobody really knows  
11          what the status is, and I think that study will give a  
12          final result and will inform us. And we would like a  
13          public hearing of that, if we could.

14          And that's it. Thank you.

15          HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

16          Our next speaker is Tom Larson.

17          MR. TOM LARSON: I'll pass at this time.

18          HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Okay. And our  
19          next speaker will be Patricia Butler.

20

21

PATRICIA BUTLER

22

Patricia Butler, B-U-T-L-E-R, resident of

23

Kennewick.

24

I'm just here today to support the Black Rock

25

development for our agriculture and prevent any

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1 drought. That's my main concern, for agriculture.  
2 And for development. I believe in economic growth,  
3 and I envision that is what this is, and I feel a  
4 little upbeat about it. And that's what I want to  
5 comment on today. And I support it. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

7 Okay. The next speaker is Duane Faletti.

8

9 DUANE FALETTI

10 My last name is spelled F-A-L-E-T-T-I. I  
11 will not talk about the economic and other issues  
12 concerning the Black Rock Project. My remarks will  
13 address the possible radiological threats to the  
14 Columbia River and thus the economy and the health and  
15 welfare of the people who live along the Columbia  
16 River from Hanford all the way to its mouth. Since  
17 the DOE studies to evaluate this threat have not been  
18 completed, one can say that this meeting is being held  
19 at least in part prematurely.

20           The threat will come from groundwater seepage  
21           from the reservoir into the Hanford Reservation where  
22           massive amounts of radionuclides have leaked into the  
23           soil. This groundwater seepage would raise the water  
24           table of the Hanford Reservation. The higher water  
25           table would increase the rate of flow of contaminated

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1 groundwater to the Columbia River. This increased  
2 rate of flow has the potential to cause the allowable  
3 radionuclide levels in the Columbia River to be  
4 exceeded. Immense economic and social damage would  
5 result. Remember that the Tri-Cities and most, if not  
6 all, of the cities along the river, including  
7 Portland, get their drinking water from the Columbia.

8 Furthermore, radioactive contamination is viewed  
9 with such hysteria by the public that the levels would  
10 not have to be life threatening by a long shot to  
11 cause serious dislocations.

12 This type of a waste is so toxic that holding one  
13 cup at arm's length for a few minutes will give you a  
14 legal dose.

15 I'm skipping the stuff I have and I'm just  
16 driving where it came from because there's an  
17 excellent amount of information against the wall.

18 The members of the Bureau of Reclamation and the  
19 Department of Ecology are aware of this problem. The

20 groundwater flows predict a flow of about 30 cubic  
21 feet per second into the Hanford Reservation. A back  
22 of the envelope calculation indicates that this would  
23 be about one-half inch per year over the east half of  
24 the Hanford Reservation we're talking about. And this  
25 is not really enough to draw any conclusion, but the

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1       only way to get the impact is to do careful analysis  
2       with models.

3           Therefore, DOE is conducting a groundwater flow  
4       study to determine just how much of a threat Black  
5       Rock presents. My understanding is that this study is  
6       due out in a few months.

7           However, DOE is currently preparing an  
8       Environmental Impact Statement for the Hanford site  
9       that is due out in a couple of years. A much improved  
10      groundwater flow model is under development in support  
11      of that Environmental Impact Statement.

12          Instead of relying on the current model, this new  
13      much improved model should be used when it becomes  
14      available to evaluate the risk posed by groundwater  
15      from Black Rock.

16          Furthermore, it would make sense to include the  
17      effects of a Black Rock type reservoir as an option of  
18      the upcoming Hanford Environmental Impact Statement.

19      The reason for doing that is maybe it's not economic

20 knowledge. Changing conditions might make something  
21 like that economical in the future.

22 The results of the contamination study used in  
23 the new model should be reviewed by off-site experts  
24 of the highest calibre, since predicting groundwater  
25 flows is an inexact and difficult process. Obviously

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1 public hearing should be held to review these results.

2 The potential for a significant impact to the  
3 river exists. Any prudent person or group would  
4 evaluate the risk before proceeding. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Pete Gier.

7

8 PETE GIER

9 My name is Pete Gier, G-I-E-R. I'm here to  
10 speak today in favor of the Black Rock Dam Project. I  
11 do have a few issues regarding the Bureau's  
12 Environmental Impact Statement.

13 The Environmental Impact Statement looks to the  
14 past and does a poor job looking to the future water  
15 needs.

16 It is my understanding that the Bureau's EIS does  
17 not take into account what Black Rock provides to the  
18 region's economy, specifically recreation and fish  
19 restoration.

20           The Bureau does not look at the whole picture  
21           when it comes to salmon recovery and restoration of  
22           the habitat. The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance had a  
23           consultant look at the whole picture and they came up  
24           with \$2.6 billion in benefits to the region.

25           I would like the Bureau to include the Yakima

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1 Basin Storage Alliance fish numbers in the final EIS  
2 or, at very at least, explain why there is such a big  
3 difference between the Bureau's and YBSA's findings.

4 Black Rock is the only alternative that provides  
5 enough water for instream flows that are necessary for  
6 fish passage to the upper reservoirs. Black Rock is  
7 the only alternative that supplies enough water for  
8 the lower area from Parker to the Tri-Cities during  
9 the EIS 25-year period of record.

10 I would hope that the Bureau will select Black  
11 Rock as the preferred alternative and not the  
12 No-Action alternative. I am concerned that if the  
13 Bureau does choose No Action, that the opportunity for  
14 the federal government to solve the water crisis will  
15 be lost forever. Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

17 Before I call my next speaker, if you have  
18 written comments, give them to the court reporter.

19 Our next speaker will be Harlan Hall.

20

21

HARLAN HALL

22

Hi. Name is Harlan Hall. It's H-A-L-L. I

23

live at 1322 West Fourth Avenue in Kennewick.

24

I understand that without water, our agricultural

25

economy here in eastern Washington will be lost. The

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6 SOUTH SECOND STREET, 413 LARSON BLDG., YAKIMA, WA 21

1 loss in revenue to the economy from the previous  
2 droughts over the last 20 years would have paid for a  
3 project like Black Rock. That's why I support Black  
4 Rock, because it provides a vital element our  
5 community needs, which is water. I support Black Rock  
6 because it is a multipurpose reservoir that will  
7 stimulate the economy for decades to come.

8 According to a study done by a consultant for the  
9 Yakima Basin Storage Alliance on recreation, our own  
10 recreation, in the 25-year period recreation would  
11 generate \$3.5 billion to the region's economy. I  
12 believe if you were to take this conservative number  
13 and figure it for 100 years, like the Bureau of  
14 Reclamation study does for the national benefits,  
15 recreation would pay the cost of Black Rock.

16 I would like the Bureau of Reclamation to include  
17 the study that the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance has  
18 done on recreation in its Planning Report and also in  
19 their Environmental Impact Study. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is David Rupe.

22

23 DAVID RUPE

24 Good afternoon. My name is David Rupe,

25 spelled R-U-P-E. I live at 3708 South Dump Street in

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1 Kennewick.

2 I support the Black Rock proposal because it's  
3 the only option in the study that meets the criteria  
4 Congress stipulated when they appropriated the funds  
5 for the study.

6 We are on the threshold of economic disaster in  
7 the Yakima River Basin if we do nothing to resolve the  
8 water crisis. With global warming affecting our  
9 weather patterns, we must act now. The No-Action  
10 alternative in the EIS does not solve the water  
11 problem. Our community, our state cannot wait any  
12 longer. We need additional water.

13 We have known for a long time now that we do not  
14 have enough water. For decades we have studied the  
15 problem and have done nothing. We cannot let this  
16 study go on someone's shelves and collect dust like  
17 all the other studies.

18 It is my understanding that global warming was  
19 not considered in the Draft Planning Report and

20 Environmental Impact Statement. I think that it needs  
21 to be addressed in this EIS, and I want it to be  
22 addressed in the final Planning Report/EIS. I believe  
23 when you factor in the changes of the weather, Black  
24 Rock's cost benefit ratio will definitely improve to  
25 an acceptable rate of return. Thank you for your time

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1 and consideration.

2 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

3 The next speaker is Charlie de La Chapelle.

4

5 CHARLIE de LA CHAPELLE

6 My name is Charlie De La Chapelle, and I'm

7 vice chair of Yakima Basin Storage Alliance. I'm also

8 a fourth generation farmer that is an investor here in

9 the basin.

10 Those who fail to study history are condemned to

11 repeat it. Rome was one of the history's most

12 successful civilizations. What did they do to allow

13 them to succeed where Greece had failed? They

14 invented federalism. They kept their very diverse

15 populations from warring with each other by inventing

16 concrete, paved roads and arches and invested their

17 efforts in infrastructure like roads, bridges,

18 buildings and aqueducts to tie separate peoples into

19 one Nation, the whole of which greatly exceeded the

20 sum of the parts. Today those aqueducts are still  
21 working 2,000 years later.

22 One of the popular topics in history has been the  
23 decline and fall of Rome. As I read it, corruption  
24 from within allowed for destruction from without.

25 They became corrupt as they changed their focus to

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1 consumption at the expense of investing in solutions.

2 Rarely do we find solutions that resolve two of  
3 the biggest competing factions in our country,  
4 environmental interests and economic development. We  
5 have a win/win solution. It is Black Rock. Indeed  
6 you cannot have a sound environment where your  
7 economic base is at risk every year. Only Black Rock  
8 meets the three criteria stipulated by Congress.

9 This draft EIS is disappointing as it fails to  
10 adequately measure the benefits we see, to solve the  
11 problems we face. We have studied this problem for  
12 over a generation. The No-Action alternative is  
13 unacceptable. The alternatives to Black Rock have  
14 been investigated, have been found wanting, and they  
15 still are.

16 Using just conservation, water transfers and  
17 fallowing ground to fight droughts will continue to  
18 cost this basin billions without having anything to  
19 show for the cost. To get the most out of the these

20 tools, we need to store water for dry years.

21 What will we do after this report goes back to

22 Congress stating do nothing? Spending limited

23 resources on yet more studies, more litigation, more

24 decisions by judges, and hope for a different result

25 is insanity. To chop down more trees to make more

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1 shelves to store more studies is corruption.

2 The BOR must solve the P&G limitations for  
3 measuring benefits. The BOR must use sound science to  
4 look forward, include climate change, and help solve  
5 the problems we are now facing for the next 50 to 100  
6 years, or face that they, the BOR, are now part of the  
7 problem.

8 We urge the Bureau to use Dr. Jack Stanford to  
9 review the estimate for additional fish in the Yakima  
10 from the 600 to 800 thousand acre-feet of water Black  
11 Rock can provide. Because if we can't restore the  
12 Yakima, we doubt we can restore salmon in the lower  
13 48.

14 We urge the Bureau to evaluate the amelioration  
15 of treaty rights that that volume provides. We urge  
16 the Bureau to include the Yakamas' cultural values for  
17 salmon recovery. We urge the BOR to do a future value  
18 analysis on our existing storages and use that to  
19 calculate what the future value of Black Rock could be

20 50 to 100 years from now. If the BOR uses historical  
21 values for commodities, it will again underestimate  
22 the value of the study.

23 We urge the Bureau to reevaluate the cost with a  
24 three-year build time. We urge the BOR to reevaluate  
25 recreational value of development above the waterline,

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1 as per the Mitchell Nelson report submitted by YBSA.

2 We must decide and act. This may be our last

3 opportunity. We cannot afford to repeat history.

4 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

5 Okay. The next speaker is Brad Toner.

6

7 BRAD TONER

8 Hi. My name is Brad Toner, T-O-N-E-R. I

9 live at 115 East 45th Avenue in Kennewick.

10 I was born and raised in the Yakima Valley.

11 Raised in Buena and attended Toppenish High School. I

12 was raised on an orchard ranch that was served by

13 Union Gap Irrigation District, and I worked for

14 orchardists who got water from the Roza and Sunnyside

15 Irrigation Districts.

16 I have continued to be involved in agriculture as

17 an agricultural lending officer, and for the past 22

18 years as a commercial insurance broker. I currently

19 insure three of the four irrigation districts in the

20 Tri-Cities and numerous agri-businesses, ranches and  
21 farms.

22 I have listened to various options over my  
23 lifetime: Enlarging Bumping Lake, damming up the  
24 Ellensburg Canyon to build mini dams along the Yakima.

25 The one consistent thing throughout these discussions

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1 is that everyone recognizes we have a problem, and in  
2 the end no action is ever taken.

3 We need to clean up and improve our waterways for  
4 fish habitat and recreation. We need to improve our  
5 ability to supply water for not only agriculture, but  
6 for the rapidly growing urban base that is also  
7 demanding irrigation water. And we need to ensure  
8 that our municipalities have sufficient water supply  
9 for current users and for future growth.

10 Every time we have a drought, billions and  
11 billions of dollars of property are lost, but the  
12 biggest loss may not be economical. The stress to  
13 farm families, the stress to personal and business  
14 relationships and the stress to employees has to  
15 exceed the billions and billions of dollars of  
16 property.

17 Black Rock is a solution to a problem that will  
18 not go away, but only get worse. It is time to act.  
19 Inaction should not be an alternative. It is time to

20 ensure that the availability of water is no longer an

21 issue in the Yakima Basin. Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

23 The next speaker is Mike lose so.

24

25

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1 MIKE LUZZO

2 I'm Mike Luzzo. I live in Richland, 2105  
3 Poland Street, Richland. L-U-Z-Z-O.

4 I don't necessarily support this. Being a near  
5 lifelong resident of Richland and having spent a  
6 number of years in the air force doing hazard waste  
7 sampling, I'm looking at what you're asking for. And  
8 I recognize the economic viability of it, but also you  
9 need to understand we have a problem with radioactive  
10 waste here. We've got a problem with groundwater  
11 seepage. We don't want to make sure that our  
12 radioactive products go ahead and bleed off into the  
13 Columbia River Basin.

14 We've got a problem with looking at the --  
15 basically looking at your study. You're asking for an  
16 earthen dam with rock. Have you done engineering  
17 studies to make sure that will hold? Because it's our  
18 concern, and it's certainly a concern of mine and some  
19 people I've talked to, that we want to make sure your

20 dam does hold water like it's supposed to be doing.

21 You're going to be looking at a substantial

22 amount of acre-feet of water. You're going to be

23 going down the Yakima Valley. We understand that

24 there are people that want this water, but, at the

25 same time, you have to understand over here we're

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1 starting to scratch our heads and saying, Why do you  
2 want it.

3 I ask, if there hasn't been a study done on the  
4 engineering aspects of it, that you go ahead and do  
5 so. I'm certainly going to go ahead and read what you  
6 have as far as your studies go and make sure that when  
7 we talk about -- when we talk 600 feet of water, we're  
8 going to want to make sure that you go ahead and have  
9 something that will hold this dam.

10 Other than that, we are working on classification  
11 of radioactive products in this area, trying to take  
12 care of cleaning up the Hanford Reach. I would urge  
13 you to understand that we have a problem with that.  
14 We don't need to be adding problems and polluting the  
15 Columbia River Basin.

16 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you.

17 Okay. At this time, that's all the people who  
18 have signed up. Would anybody else like to give oral  
19 comment at this time?

20 (NO RESPONSE).

21 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Nobody else?

22 (NO RESPONSE).

23 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS? Okay. At this

24 time, I'd like to recess the hearing.

25 Yes?

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1           PERSON FROM THE AUDIENCE: I have a  
2           question. Can you still submit written comments in  
3           the future?

4           HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Yes. Until  
5           March 31st we'll be accepting written comments. And  
6           you can send those to the Bureau. The address and  
7           stuff is on the comment sheet that's on the back  
8           table. And you can fax them or e-mail them to us, and  
9           they're on the same sheet.

10          PERSON FROM THE AUDIENCE: Thank you.

11                           (A RECESS WAS HAD AT  
12                           2:41 P.M. UNTIL 3:05 P.M.)

13          HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Okay. At this  
14          time I would like to reopen the hearing for another  
15          comment.

16          Remember, you've got five minutes per comment.  
17          And then after four minutes, we'll give you the little  
18          yellow card.

19          Okay. If you want to give us your name and

20 address.

21

22 CAROLE BYRD

23 Hello. My name is Carole Byrd, B-Y-R-D.

24 C-A-R-O-L-E, B-Y-R-D. My address is 427 Shoreline

25 Court, Richland, Washington, 99354.

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1           It seems to me that the 16 cent return on the  
2           dollar benefit for Black Rock ought to table the  
3           project. But not having confidence that that will be  
4           the case, I'd like to speak of my environmental  
5           concerns.

6           The study suggests that the environmental study  
7           of the risk of ground -- contamination that would --  
8           the effect of water seeping through -- Sorry. I'm  
9           trying to find the words because I don't have a  
10          scientific background.

11          But I do know that on the site there is hazardous  
12          materials in the soil that could be affected,  
13          depending on the water pattern, and that your study  
14          defers to a Department of Energy study that will be  
15          incorporated in the report at a later date. And that  
16          is simply not acceptable, that we would not have the  
17          opportunity to study it with the report now and make  
18          comments on it. Serious concerns there that  
19          contamination would be washed into the Columbia River.

20           There are other environmental concerns related to  
21           impact to the fish by mixing the waters of the  
22           Columbia and Yakima and how the fish would respond to  
23           that.

24           And also I understand now there is concern about  
25           the stability of the dam area with regard to potential

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1 for lack of stability of the ground.

2 I think none of those issues are adequately  
3 addressed in the study, so I would just like to go on  
4 record as expressing my concerns. And I thank you for  
5 calling the meeting back to order in order for me to  
6 express those concerns.

7 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you very  
8 much.

9 MS. CAROL BYRD: Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Any other  
11 comments at this time?

12 (NO RESPONSE).

13 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Okay. We'll  
14 adjourn the hearing at this time.

15 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT

16 3:09 P.M. UNTIL 3:16 P.M.)

17 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: At this time,  
18 I'd like to reopen the hearing for comments.

19 State your name and spell your last name and

20 address.

21

22 JACK DAWSON

23 Okay. My name is Jack Dawson, D-A-W-S-O-N.

24 I'm a resident of Pasco, Washington. 65, 70 years a

25 resident of the Yakima Valley.

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6 SOUTH SECOND STREET, 413 LARSON BLDG., YAKIMA, WA 33

1           My concern with the Black Rock study, if you can  
2           call it a study, is that -- I just briefly reviewed  
3           what was out the other day, and it seems to me that  
4           the EIS is really not in place and the study so far  
5           cannot qualify as an EIS. It just doesn't seem to be  
6           thorough enough.

7           And I think that the only time that the concerns  
8           over the hydrology and the water and the water plumes  
9           and the Hanford site, it should be studied by  
10          professional engineers that have no interest other  
11          than his profession in studying the water and  
12          groundwaters.

13          Also, I think that the fact that the dam,  
14          portions of the dam, is going to be built right over  
15          the top of the fault line should be addressed. And I  
16          think that again has to be addressed by the impact  
17          study.

18          And other than that, I think the fish, if you've  
19          ever seen the salmon and such trying to swim up the

20 spouts of the irrigation system because they smell the  
21 Yakima water from someplace else, it can happen and  
22 will happen. And I'm sure you folks are very familiar  
23 with the ongoing battle of the fish in the rivers and  
24 the dams. So I think that that would really screw  
25 things up real badly.

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1 Plus I think that the water storage, if it's  
2 designed as emergency farming storage, will just be  
3 added, if it truly is turned out to be, added volume.  
4 How would that be used in the years that it's not used  
5 or required? Are you going to open more land, so that  
6 when we're done with another five or six years of  
7 that, you'll have more land that doesn't have water in  
8 the drought times? And will the dam even have enough  
9 volume to do any good? So thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Thank you. We  
11 appreciate it.

12 Any more comments at this time?

13 (NO RESPONSE).

14 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: With that, we  
15 will recess until further comments.

16 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT  
17 3:19 P.M. UNTIL 3:59 P.M.).

18 HEARING OFFICER JOHN EVANS: Okay. It's now  
19 4:00. This public hearing is adjourned.

20

21

(HEARING ADJOURNED AT

22

4:00 P.M.)

23

24

25

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1 WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

2 AND ARE ATTACHED AT THE END OF THE TRANSCRIPT:

3

4 DUANE FALETTI

5 PETE GIER

6 HARLAN HALL

7 DAVID RUPE

8 CHARLIE de LA CHAPELLE

9 BRAD TONER

10

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1                    C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3    STATE OF WASHINGTON)

                  ) ss.

4    COUNTY OF YAKIMA    )

5

6            THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I, Dorene Boyle, Notary

7    Public in and for the State of Washington residing at

8    Yakima, reported the within and foregoing public hearing;

9    said public hearing being taken before me as a Notary

10   Public on the date herein set forth; that said statements

11   were taken by me in shorthand and thereafter under my

12   supervision transcribed, and that same is a full, true and

13   correct record of the statements of said participants.

14

15            I further certify that I am not a relative or

16   employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor

17   am I financially interested in the outcome of the cause.

18

19            IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand

20 and affixed my official seal this day of ,

21 2008.

22

23 CERT/LIC NO. 2521

24 Notary Public in and for the State  
of Washington, residing at Yakima

25

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PUBLIC MEETING

Yakima Basin Storage Study  
Draft Planning Report/EIS

Thursday, February 28, 2008  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Three Rivers Convention Center  
7016 West Grandridge Boulevard  
Rooms G & H  
Kennewick, Washington 99336

Dave Kaumheimer  
Hearing Officer

20

21

22

23

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25

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6 SOUTH SECOND STREET, 413 LARSON BLDG., YAKIMA, WA 1

1 ORAL COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

2

3	NAME	PAGES
4	PHIL WILLIAMS	5 - 6
5	MIKE LILGA	7 - 8
6	JIM STOFFELS	8 - 10
7	RICK LEAUMONT	10 - 12
8	JOHN LUCAS	12 - 13
9	ART KING	13 - 14
10	GLENN CLARK	14 - 15
11	ST. CLAIR WOODWORTH	16 - 17
12	CAROL MOSER	18 - 19
13	RICK LAMOUREUX	19 - 21
14	BILL SHIBLEY	21 - 22
15	MICKEY CHAMNASS	23 - 24
16	DANA WARD	25 - 28
17	JACK DAWSON	28 - 29

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1 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: I want to  
2 welcome you to tonight's public hearing on the Draft  
3 Planning Report and Draft Environmental Impact  
4 Statement for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage  
5 Feasibility Study. The Draft Final Report and EIS  
6 were prepared under the requirements of the National  
7 Environmental Policy Act and the Washington State's  
8 State Environmental Act.

9 In tonight's hearing we're going to take comments  
10 under both NEPA and SEPA. We have Derek Sandison here  
11 tonight from the Department of Ecology, who's the lead  
12 agency from the State on this EIS. And I'm Dave  
13 Kraumheimer. I'm the Environmental Program Manager  
14 for the Bureau of Reclamation up in Yakima.

15 Our purpose here tonight of course is to get your  
16 comments on the Draft Planning Report and the EIS.  
17 And we'll take your comments orally or we can take  
18 them in writing as well. There's a form on the back  
19 table if you want to provide a written comment. You

20 can fill out the form and drop it in the box in the

21 back.

22 The comment period for the EIS is actually open

23 until the end of March, March 31st. And you can

24 provide us written comments through the mail, you can

25 e-mail us comments, or you can fax us comments. And

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1 all of the information you need to get us comment on  
2 one of the those routes is on the back of that comment  
3 form on the back of the table. So if you're trying to  
4 figure out how you're going to get us the comment if  
5 you don't provide it tonight, pick up one of those  
6 forms and it will have all the information you need.

7 We're keeping a transcript of the oral comments  
8 tonight. We have a court reporter up front. She'll  
9 keep a verbatim transcript of your comments. And she  
10 would appreciate it if you would speak clearly and  
11 slowly. If you have written comments that you're  
12 reading from, we'd appreciate it if you'd provide her  
13 a copy of those written comments at the completion of  
14 your oral comment.

15 I'd ask anyone who has a cell phone to either  
16 turn it off or mute it so that the meeting isn't  
17 interrupted with your phone call.

18 We're going to take folks pretty much in the  
19 order they signed in. We were running a couple

20 sign-in sheets at once, so, depending on which sheet  
21 you signed, it may not go exactly in the order you got  
22 it, but we'll try to get everyone taken care of.

23 I'll call your name when it's your opportunity to  
24 speak, and I'd like you to come up and use the  
25 microphone in the front of the room, so everyone can

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1 hear you, particularly the court reporter, so she gets  
2 a clear record of the meeting.

3 When you come forward, we'd like you to state  
4 your name, spell your last name, so we get it accurate  
5 for the record, and give us your address as well. And  
6 if you're representing a group, we'd appreciate it if  
7 you'd indicate which group you're representing  
8 tonight.

9 And you're going to have five minutes to give  
10 your comments. Four minutes in, when there's one  
11 minute left, John will give you a sign to let you know  
12 that you have one minute to wrap things up.

13 With that, I guess we'll take our first speaker.

14 It's Phil Williams.

15

16 PHIL WILLIAMS

17 Good evening. Hi, my name is Phil Williams.

18 And I have experienced the ups and downs of our  
19 economy, and what I know is that without enough water,

20 our economy will be devastated. We know this because  
21 the last drought cost our community a billion dollars.  
22 It doesn't take too many more droughts to pay for a  
23 project like Black Rock. That's why I support the  
24 Black Rock, because Black Rock provides a vital  
25 element our community needs, which is water.

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1           Black Rock provides enough water to take us  
2           beyond the next generation. I support Black Rock  
3           because it's a multipurpose reservoir that will  
4           stimulate the Basin's economy for decades to come.

5           According to the study done by a consultant for  
6           the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance on recreation, in a  
7           25-year period recreation will generate \$3.5 billion  
8           in the region. I believe if we were to take this  
9           conservative number and figure for 100 years, like the  
10          Bureau of Reclamation does, study does, the national  
11          benefits, recreation would pay for the cost of Black  
12          Rock.

13          I would like the Bureau of Reclamation to include  
14          the study that the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance has  
15          done on recreation in its Planning Report/  
16          Environmental Impact Study. I want the politicians,  
17          the people back in D.C. who read Environmental Impacts  
18          Statements, to know that Black Rock's value is more  
19          than 16 cents on the dollar. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Phil,  
21 could we get you to spell your name and give your  
22 address.

23 MR. PHI WILLIAMS: Last name is Williams,  
24 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. And I live at 7701 West Fourth  
25 Street, Kennewick.

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1 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Mike Lilga.

3

4 MIKE LILGA

5 You pronounced that correctly, very good.

6 Mike Lilga, L-I-L-G-A, 317 Fuller, F-U-L-L-E-R, Street

7 in Richland.

8 I'm opposed to Black Rock for three significant

9 reasons. First is geology. Black Rock is planned to

10 be built on a very significant thrust fault. This is

11 earthquake zone with the potential for fairly large

12 earthquakes. Ground movement is estimated to be

13 possible up to several meters directly under a dam.

14 That's not a good thing. Thrust faults and dams are a

15 poor combination and should be grounds on its own for

16 rejection of this alternative.

17 The second issue is groundwater. Groundwater

18 will seep towards the Hanford site. There's great

19 potential for contaminants to be flushed into the

20 Columbia River. Increased ground flow and Hanford  
21 contaminants are a poor combination and on its own  
22 should be grounds for rejection of this alternative.

23 In addition, the EIS should not be issued until  
24 the public has had time to comment on Ecology's study  
25 of that problem.

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1           The third issue is economics. Return on  
2           investment is only 16 cents on the dollar. This is  
3           very poor, and under federal law this project could  
4           not even be built.

5           So for each of these three reasons, each of which  
6           alone could kill Black Rock project, I suggest that  
7           you reject Black Rock. Thank you.

8           HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

9           Did you have written comments?

10          MR. MIKE LILGA: Just my handwritten notes.

11          I'll supply them.

12          HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right.

13          Jim Stoffels.

14

15                        JIM STOFFELS

16           Jim Stoffels, S-T-O-F-F-E-L-S, 1002 Rio,

17           R-I-O, Senda, S-E-N-D-A, Court in Richland.

18           Modest opposition to the proposed Black Rock Dam

19           and Reservoir should not be taken as approval of the

20 project by the silent majority. I myself am relying  
21 on the 2006 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation study showing a  
22 hugely negative benefit-to-cost of the project  
23 overruling the self-serving study of proponents.

24 The proposal brings to my mind the 1976 failure  
25 of Teton Dam in Ohio, which failed on its initial

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1 filling, and the photographs of bulldozers trying to  
2 seal the widening breach and then being swallowed in  
3 the growing torrent of water.

4 The concept of an unbreachable dam falls into the  
5 same category as the Titanic mentality of an  
6 unsinkable ship. So what is the possibility of  
7 failure of a Black Rock Dam if built, whether from  
8 faulty design or construction, earthquake or terrorist  
9 bombing.

10 No matter how minuscule the possibility, the  
11 consults would be cataclysmic. The proposed Black  
12 Rock Dam is to be more than a mile long, 200 feet  
13 taller than Grand Coulee Dam, and is to hold a volume  
14 of water more than four times that of the Teton Dam.  
15 Failure of such a dam would bury the Tri-Cities with a  
16 wall of water not seen since the Ice Age floods.

17 It would also be the greatest nuclear disaster  
18 since Chernobyl, as the water scours the Hanford  
19 desert and carries high-level radioactive wastes,

20 cocooned reactor cores, and nuclear submarine reactor

21 compartments downstream.

22 If Black Rock Dam is ever built, photographic

23 stations should be required on the tops of Rattlesnake

24 Mountain and the Horse Heaven Hills to record for

25 posterity the possible results of man's folly. Thank

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1 you.

2 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

3 Rick Leumont.

4

5 RICK LEAUMONT

6 Rick Leumont, spelled L-E-A-U-M-O-N-T. I'm

7 the Conservation Committee Chair for the Lower

8 Columbia Basin Audubon Society, 916 Sunset Trail,

9 Pasco, Washington.

10 The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society opposes

11 the Black Rock project. As it was stated before,

12 we're greatly concerned about the groundwater seepage

13 from the project. It is estimated that the

14 groundwater seepage would be 30 cubic feet per second,

15 which equates to 30,000 acre-feet of water per year.

16 This would quadruple the groundwater underneath the

17 Hanford Reservation, the present flow of groundwater.

18 The Department of Energy in their last

19 groundwater report for 2006 stated their objective is

20 to stabilize the groundwater under Hanford or to  
21 shrink it. This project would do exactly opposite and  
22 could flush these contaminants into the Columbia  
23 river.

24 I'm also very concerned about a catastrophic  
25 failure of the dam due to constructing it on an active

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1 seismic zone, and also the possibility of landslides  
2 along the south rim and the south abutment to the dam.

3 We're also very concerned about mixing water from  
4 the Columbia River with Yakima water. This could  
5 confuse migrating salmon and disrupt the migration.

6 And we're also very concerned about the  
7 interruption of the migratory wildlife corridor  
8 between the Hanford Reach National Monument and the  
9 Yakima Firing Center.

10 And we are very concerned that this report, the  
11 Feasibility and Environmental Impact Study, does not  
12 arrive at the level -- doesn't have the level of  
13 information and facts to be considered in  
14 Environmental Impact Study. We think it's fine for a  
15 feasibility study.

16 If the project goes forward, we would ask that  
17 the study be considered only a feasibility study and  
18 that an Environmental Impact Statement be done.

19 We would also ask that the water that is to be

20 retained in the Yakima River that the Black Rock  
21 Project would replace, that legislation be passed that  
22 a water right be granted to fish for 440,000 acre-feet  
23 of water.

24 We would also like that land would be acquired to  
25 establish a wildlife corridor between the National

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1 Monument and the Firing Center along the Columbia  
2 River. And we would also like to see lands acquired  
3 along the Yakima River so that wetlands could be  
4 established to use the water that would be mixed with  
5 Columbia River water, so that would go into a wetland  
6 that would provide benefits to wildlife.

7 And also we would like to see that a series of  
8 dikes and water gates be established in the reservoir  
9 so that, as the level is drawn down, water could be  
10 retained for wetlands, so it wouldn't just be a mud  
11 flat.

12 And, also, the impacts to migratory fish in the  
13 Hanford Reach by the withdrawal of this water from the  
14 Columbia to Black Rock should be fully mitigated.

15 Thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

17 John Lucas.

18

19 JOHN LUCAS

20           Yeah, Jonathan Lucas, L-U-C-A-S, and it's

21           2410 Sacramento Boulevard, Richland.

22           I've got two concerns with the project. One is

23           that the EIS as it stands doesn't fully implement the

24           process and all the required components of it.

25           And the other concern is with the groundwater

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1 issue with Hanford, that not the full information is  
2 being utilized. There's a Hanford groundwater data  
3 report that hasn't fully come out yet, and all that  
4 information needs to be utilized in this process  
5 before proceeding with this.

6 So, anyway, that was my comments. And thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right,  
8 thank you.

9 Art King.

10

11 ART KING

12 I'm Art King, K-I-N-G. I live at 1009

13 Country Court, and that's in Richland.

14 Just recently, I believe this week, the Tri-City

15 Herald had a wonderful story on Red Mountain. And

16 I've had the privilege of living in this community

17 over seven years now, and it's probably one of the

18 nicest communities I never heard of until we moved

19 here. I'm proud of it.

20           We bought some property on the west side of  
21           Mt. Hood. And when I go over there, I get the sense,  
22           when I tell people where I live, that deep down inside  
23           they're saying I'm sorry. I'm not. I'm very proud of  
24           this community.

25           I think Hanford is a proud past that we've had in

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1 this community, but our future to me is Red Mountain.

2 And some day I'd like to say, You know that wine that

3 you drink, Red Mountain? That's the Tri-Cities. And

4 I don't think Red Mountain will ever come to its full

5 potential without a healthy Yakima River.

6 I was quite surprised to see how dependent they

7 are on the wells. I've lived on wells for ten years,

8 and that's something you really in the long-term can't

9 depend on. But I think if we had a full flowing

10 healthy Yakima River 50 years from now, Red Mountain

11 will be all it can be. Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

13 Glenn Clark.

14

15 GLENN CLARK

16 Thank you very much. Glenn Clark,

17 C-L-A-R-K, 1219 North Edison, Kennewick, Washington.

18 And thank you for the opportunity for this

19 hearing. I'm glad I'm here and not next door at the

20 Kennewick Irrigation District LID 1000. It might get  
21 a little ugly over there.

22 I'm a lifelong resident of the Tri-Cities. My  
23 parents were actually displaced from the Hanford site  
24 when the Nuclear Energy AAC took it over. I am a real  
25 estate broker/developer and I'm president elect of the

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1 Tri-Cities Association of Realtors, although I am here  
2 tonight speaking on my own behalf.

3 You know, I think when I was in third grade, I  
4 think, if I can remember that far back, I thought it  
5 was odd that we had the same amount of water in this  
6 earth as we've ever had, and it's just a question of  
7 where it is. Now, I would rather try to utilize the  
8 water from the Black Rock Reservoir than try and get  
9 it out of the middle of the ocean.

10 The economic benefits are I believe far  
11 understated. Like I say, my field is real estate.  
12 There's a lot of people in here that are a lot smarter  
13 than I am about the fault zones, etcetera, etcetera.  
14 But the economic benefits, I think I can understand.

15 If we kill a pasture of alfalfa or a field of  
16 alfalfa, that is not a good thing. But when we kill  
17 orchards and vineyards that take a long time to  
18 produce, that's tragic.

19 And, in closing, I will just say one thing, is

20 that guaranteed it will never get any cheaper.

21 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

22 St. Clair Woodworth.

23

24 ST. CLAIR WOODWORTH

25 I'm St. Clair Woodworth, I'm here and I'm

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1 representing the Port of Sunnyside, and just to tell  
2 you that we've been supporting them, Black Rock, and I  
3 support Black Rock.

4 I was born in Sunnyside and lived there my whole  
5 life, 77 years, and I've seen a lot of drought times  
6 and people are hard up and it really hurts bad to see  
7 your crops wilting and dying.

8 When I was younger, I look back and the older  
9 fellow said, Well, it was much colder earlier than  
10 that. And when I was growing up, we were all  
11 ice-skating. You don't see people ice-skating  
12 anymore. It's just getting a little bit warmer, and  
13 that tells me something.

14 We're in favor of maintaining the fish, and we  
15 would like to see everything continue. We believe  
16 that the Yakima Valley is one of the best areas  
17 around.

18 The Columbia River is a big river, but you don't  
19 see the contributing of small little streams and a

20 rocky bed that makes up the Yakima River, and not too  
21 fast moving. So we believe that if you enhance the  
22 Yakima River, that you'll be enhancing the farmers  
23 there and then also the fish and make for a whole  
24 happy situation. Okay, thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could we

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1 get you to spell your last name and give your address.

2 MR. ST. CLAIR WOODWORTH: My last name?

3 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Yes.

4 Could you spell it.

5 MR. ST. CLAIR WOODWORTH: Woodworth,

6 W-O-O-D-W-O-R-T-H.

7 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: And your

8 address?

9 MR. ST. CLAIR WOODWORTH: 517 Grandview

10 Avenue, Sunnyside, Washington, 98944.

11 I'd also kind of like to have my grandson be able

12 to farm too, so. Thanks.

13 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right,

14 thanks.

15 Well, that's all the folks we had signed up to

16 speak. Is there anyone else who would like to make an

17 oral comment?

18 PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE: (Indicating).

19 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Come on

20 up. Gave your name, spell your last name for the  
21 court reporter.

22

23 CAROL MOSER

24 Okay. My name is Carol Moser. My address

25 is 2662 East Wood Avenue, Richland, Washington.

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1           And I'm all for some kind of water storage. In  
2           this area we live by agricultural and food processing,  
3           and so it's a very instrumental part of our economy.

4           However, I happen to live with a hydrologist, and  
5           he hangs with a whole bunch of hydrologists, and they  
6           have some major concerns because they do work out at  
7           the site. And because of the way that Black Rock is  
8           constructed, it's constructed over basalt, and basalt  
9           is typically fractured, and so the potential of that  
10          water from the reservoir leaking into and influencing  
11          contaminants that are already at the Hanford site is a  
12          very big concern of mine and a lot of hydrologists in  
13          the area.

14          Added to that is that we live in a wonderful  
15          climate, I love the dry area, but the  
16          evapotranspiration rate on this reservoir is enormous.  
17          And I haven't seen any real studies addressing that  
18          issue. But we're talking about a lot of dry days, a  
19          lot of evaporation from the reservoir itself.

20 I think having recreational amenities is  
21 wonderful, but nobody has really talked about the fact  
22 that, you know, sometimes you look at these reservoirs  
23 and they're dry in the summertime. So I'm not sure  
24 how much recreational utility there's going to be at  
25 some times of the year. And that's kind of a concern

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1 because it's a wasted resource then. We have all of  
2 this water that we pumped, it's run dry, we've got  
3 docks that aren't being used and water that's not  
4 being used in a fruitful fashion.

5 So there are just a lot of concerns that I have,  
6 not with stating the cost. Four billion dollars is a  
7 heck of a lot of money. And there has to be other  
8 alternatives out there. They're already posted out  
9 there, some that are more efficient with our dollars,  
10 to try to find ways to stir water underground, too,  
11 would be probably more efficient.

12 So I just think that it's, you know, a marvelous  
13 idea to try to tackle water storage in our region.  
14 I'm not sure that Black Rock is the answer, for the  
15 reasons I've stated, but, you know, thank you for the  
16 opportunity to speak tonight. Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

18 Come on up.

19

20 RICK LAMOUREUX

21 Hi, my name is Rick Lamoureux,

22 L-A-M-O-U-R-E-U-X.

23 And I'm for water storage, but I'm concerned

24 about how this is being -- With the Black Rock

25 Reservoir there are some concerns I have with water

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1 seepage, like she was just mentioning, evaporation.

2 And I would go with the pipeline from the  
3 Columbia to Sunnyside for interim, kind of like  
4 something that would -- until we could get something  
5 else solved. Maybe find another location, something  
6 like that, but I would -- if they want to pump water  
7 out of the Columbia for irrigation into a pipeline, I  
8 think that would be a better way than to have this  
9 nine-mile long reservoir, which I just can't  
10 understand how -- It seems like you'd have to  
11 continually pump water into this reservoir, which to  
12 me would affect electrical rates, the farmers  
13 downstream.

14 So that's why I'm saying I think just a pipeline,  
15 maybe two pipelines, would be adequate enough to fill  
16 the Roza Canal. And then in the case of emergency,  
17 that would be more thorough way of doing things than  
18 spending our money. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could we

20 get your address?

21 MR. RICK LAMOUREUX: Yes. 609 Meadows Drive

22 East, Richland, 99352.

23 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

24 MR. RICK LAMOUREUX: Okay.

25

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1                   DANA WARD

2                   Hi. I'm not quite ready to speak yet.

3                   Could you wait a few minutes?

4                   HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: We'll be  
5                   here until nine.

6                   MR. DANA WARD: Okay. I'll be about five  
7                   'til nine.

8                   HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Is there  
9                   anyone else who wishes to speak at this time?

10

11                   BILL SHIBLEY

12                   A very polite crowd here in the Tri-Cities.

13                   Bill Shibley, S-H-I-B-L-E-Y, P.O. Box 2585,  
14                   Pasco, 99302.

15                   I derive all of my income from agriculture in  
16                   that I work as a farm banker. And I just feel so  
17                   blessed to be in this community. We've got such an  
18                   incredible resource here that we can produce from what  
19                   we have, but it just kills me that we cannot go ahead

20 and start any new project.

21 We're very quick to say no, we can't do that

22 because that will cause this. We can't do that

23 because a dam 30 years ago went down somewhere back

24 East. We've obviously got the technology today to get

25 around that.

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1           So because of that, now we're willing to import  
2           our timber from Canada, because we can't cut U.S.  
3           timber. We'll let somebody else cut it and it won't  
4           be regulated. We'll just import it in. We get our  
5           wine from Australia. God forbid we get food from  
6           China. And it's all because we are not willing to  
7           expand American agricultural.

8           It's about time that we look at some projects  
9           like Black Rock, which I strongly support, finishing  
10          the rest of the Columbia Basin Project, some of these  
11          things. We're going to stop and we're going to get  
12          hung up on legal issues. And all those projects, in  
13          50 years we'll look back on them and say, wow, that  
14          was amazing. That was awesome we did that.

15          Grand Coulee didn't make economic sense 75 years  
16          ago. By golly, it makes economic sense today. So I  
17          am strongly in favor of Black Rock. It's about time  
18          we start doing something so we keep agriculture in the  
19          United States. Thanks.

20 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

21 Would you like to come up.

22

23 MICKEY CHAMNASS

24 My name is Mickey Chamnass. My last name is

25 spelled C-H-A-M-N-A-S-S. My address is 4255 Tammy

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1 Street in Richland.

2 I hadn't really thought my comments out very  
3 clearly, but one of the things that I did when I first  
4 moved to the Tri-Cities about 30 years ago was  
5 geologic mapping on Ahtanum Ridge, and so I know that  
6 the ridge has a lot of fractures and faults and things  
7 through it. And I'm little bit interested in how they  
8 are going to design a tunnel to carry the water  
9 through the ridge and back over into Black Rock.

10 There's a lot of faulting and folding and stuff  
11 in between, so I'm concerned that there will be some  
12 water lost through that ridge as they're piping water  
13 through.

14 I had to agree with the concerns about the  
15 leakage through the bottom of the reservoir. I've  
16 also been working out at Hanford for a long time.  
17 I've had a lot of experience in groundwater  
18 contamination out there, and I think that there's a  
19 very good potential for that to have some kind of

20 impact. I don't know how big the impact would be, but  
21 I'm pretty sure that there would be some impact to  
22 water levels as they're trying to clean up the  
23 groundwater out there.

24 And I also realize that, as you're talking to  
25 some of these nice folks that have been very helpful

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6 SOUTH SECOND STREET, 413 LARSON BLDG., YAKIMA, WA 23



1 and very formative back here, that recreation is not  
2 part of the scope of the Bureau of Reclamation's plan;  
3 that the housing development things that are out there  
4 is a separate sideline type, taking benefit off of the  
5 reservoir if it were to be built.

6 But I am concerned that in the long run that that  
7 would become -- that and the municipal water sources  
8 that the reservoir might be used for in the long run  
9 would might become drivers. They may not be part of  
10 the plan right now, but I wonder if they wouldn't  
11 become drivers a few years down the road.

12 And so the expensive resorts get built, and all  
13 the sudden it's really not quite so good to have that  
14 water level dropping up and down every year with  
15 seasonal withdrawals for irrigation. And that as the  
16 area is continued to be developed, that there would be  
17 an increasing requirement for municipal water sources.

18 So those are some of my concerns. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

20 Is there anyone else who would like to provide an  
21 oral comment at this time?

22 (NO RESPONSE).

23 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Well,  
24 thank you for coming. And we're going to put the  
25 hearing in recess at this point, but we'll be here

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1 until 9:00, so we can open it again if we have a  
2 comment. Thank you.

3 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT  
4 7:34 P.M. UNTIL 7:48 P.M.)

5 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: If we  
6 could have a little quiet in the room, we're going to  
7 reopen the hearing and we're going to take another  
8 comment from Dana Ward.

9

10 DANA WARD

11 And I don't know your protocol. Did you  
12 want my name, address, organization, things of that  
13 nature?

14 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Your name,  
15 spell the last, and your address.

16 MR. DANA WARD: Okay. Dana Ward, W-A-R-D,  
17 Environmental Scientists Audubon Society. My home  
18 address is 10112 Maple Drive, Pasco, 99301.

19 And I just wanted -- Is there a time limit?

20 MR. JOHN EVANS: Five minutes.

21 MR. DANA WARD: Okay. I just wanted to say

22 a few things and hope that these are taken into

23 consideration.

24 On June 9th, 2000, the President signed a

25 proclamation designating the Hanford Reach a national

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1 monument. In that proclamation it is stated that  
2 there will be sufficient water maintained in the  
3 Columbia River for the Hanford Reach National  
4 Monument. I'm not quite sure how the Black Rock  
5 Reservoir would impact the water supply for the  
6 Hanford Reach, but that needs to be taken into  
7 consideration.

8 Another thing that considers the ecology of large  
9 dams, the ecology of large dams is an evolving  
10 process. When we built the string of dams on the  
11 Columbia River and the Snake River, we weren't totally  
12 aware of what impact those dams could do. So we need  
13 to take into the ecology of the proposed Black Rock  
14 Reservoir Dam and what impact the ecology has.

15 For instance, in the Columbia River Dam, we have  
16 now learned that the benthic organisms are affected by  
17 the dam in the backup of water more than a quarter  
18 mile inland subterranean-wise. These were not known  
19 when those dams were built, and it is an impact to the

20 ecology of those dams.

21 And certainly we did not know what the impact was  
22 to the salmon. There used to be 50 million salmon  
23 coming up the Columbia River at one time. Now, I  
24 understand that this will not impact salmon in any one  
25 direct form on the Columbia River, but indirectly it

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1 could. We need to know what the ecology is of these  
2 large dams.

3 We also have to be careful, if we store that much  
4 water, what kinds of levels we would raise the  
5 groundwater to. On the arid lands ecology reserve we  
6 have the Cold Creek drainage. Now, we have a shrub  
7 step environment there now. If we raise the level of  
8 the water in that drainage, which is a main drainage,  
9 subterranean drainage, out of the Black Rock  
10 Reservoir, we could create inadvertently a wetland  
11 situation on the arid lands ecology reserve.

12 Our shrub step environment is disappearing. We  
13 would not want to do that. We would not want to  
14 jeopardize our arid lands ecology reserve and the  
15 Hanford Reach National Monument.

16 One of the other things we have to be careful  
17 about is, when we store that much water, and there is  
18 a great potential for evaporation, we can actually  
19 change the atmospheric composition of the air to a

20 more humid environment, which could change again the  
21 arid lands ecology of the region.

22 We have already raised the temperatures and the  
23 humidity in the Tri-Cities due to all our irrigation  
24 and we vow that this will impact our arid lands  
25 ecology, and so could Black Rock Reservoir.

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1           Also we need to take into account that the large  
2           shrub step in the Yakima Firing Range is connected to  
3           the 587 square miles of Hanford ecology. And putting  
4           the reservoir between the two may not be a wise thing  
5           if we want to maintain a shrub step corridor between  
6           the two large reserves.

7           And I think I've about covered what I wanted to  
8           cover, and I appreciate this opportunity to speak with  
9           you.

10           HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right,  
11           thank you.

12           MR. DANA WARD: Thank you.

13           HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Is there  
14           anyone else that would like to give an oral comment at  
15           this time?

16

17           JACK DAWSON

18           Just one thought. I talked to you this  
19           morning, too. But my name is Jack Dawson,

20 D-A-W-S-O-N. I live at 9614 Vincenzo,

21 V-I-N-C-E-N-z-O, Drive in Pasco.

22 And I guess the only comment that would be

23 different than this morning would be thinking in terms

24 of the faults underneath the dam. And by this very

25 name, a thrust fault means essentially continuous

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1 movement. And when the seepage data was put together,  
2 the modeling, I'm almost sure -- I'm not positive, I'm  
3 almost sure -- it did not take into account the  
4 movement that will occur.

5 All the ridges that run across eastern Washington  
6 are there and they are not going to go away. Just  
7 because the gap is there at the Black Rock does not  
8 mean that the fault has disappeared.

9 And if you look at the ridges and those that --  
10 the trending and the fault, they will move all the  
11 time. And I would think that 30,000 acre-feet of  
12 seepage by year '41, after the completion of Black  
13 Rock, would not stand critical review. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

15 Is there anyone else that would like to provide  
16 an oral comment at this point?

17 (NO RESPONSE)

18 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right.

19 We'll go ahead and recess the hearing again. Thank

20 you.

21 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT

22 7:54 P.M. UNTIL 7:59 P.M)

23 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: It is now

24 9:00. We're now going to reopen the hearing.

25 Is there anyone who wishes to provide an oral

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1 comment?

2 (NO RESPONSE).

3 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Hearing

4 none, the hearing is now closed.

5

6 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT

7 9:00 P.M.)

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1 WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

2 AND ARE ATTACHED AT THE END OF THE TRANSCRIPT:

3

4 PAUL WILLIAMS

5 JIM STOFFELS

6 RICK LEAUMONT

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1                    C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3    STATE OF WASHINGTON)

                              ) ss.

4    COUNTY OF YAKIMA    )

5

6                    THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I, Dorene Boyle, Notary

7    Public in and for the State of Washington residing at

8    Yakima, reported the within and foregoing public hearing;

9    said public hearing being taken before me as a Notary

10   Public on the date herein set forth; that said statements

11   were taken by me in shorthand and thereafter under my

12   supervision transcribed, and that same is a full, true and

13   correct record of the statements of said participants.

14

15                    I further certify that I am not a relative or

16   employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor

17   am I financially interested in the outcome of the cause.

18

19                    IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand

20 and affixed my official seal this day of ,

21 2008.

22

23 CERT/LIC NO. 2521

24 Notary Public in and for the State  
of Washington, residing at Yakima

25

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