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PUBLIC MEETING

Yakima Basin Storage Study  
Draft Planning Report/EIS

Wednesday, February 27, 2008  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Yakima Convention Center  
10 North Eighth Street  
Suites 300 and 400  
Yakima, Washington, 98901

Candy McKinley  
Hearing Officer

1 ORAL COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

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3	NAME	PAGES
4	JOHN OSBORN	5 - 8
5	NORM JOHNSON	8 - 9
6	STEVEN GEORGE	10 - 13
7	THOMAS ALLEN	13 - 17
8	RICK DIEKER	17 - 19
9	URBAN EBERHART	19 - 20
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11	TERRY KEENHAN	24 - 26
12	BOB HALL	27 - 29
13	GARY LUKEHART	29 - 30
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16	WARREN DICKMAN	35 - 37
17	ALAN FINCH	38 - 39
18	MICHAEL GARRITY	39 - 41
19	MICHAEL MORRISETTE	41 - 44
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21	VIC ROBERT	48 - 49
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23	AMBER HANSEN	51 - 53
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1 HEARING OFFICER CANDY McKINLEY: Good  
2 afternoon. And my name is Candy McKinley. I work  
3 with the Bureau of Reclamation. I will be  
4 coordinating this public hearing today, which is an  
5 opportunity to gather verbal comment for the Draft  
6 Planning Report and Environment Impact Statement for  
7 the Yakima River Basin Storage Water Feasibility  
8 Study.

9 This is a joint document that was prepared by the  
10 Bureau of Reclamation and the Washington State  
11 Department of Ecology in compliance with the National  
12 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, and the State  
13 Environmental Policy Act, SEPA.

14 I would like to note that Mr. Derek Sandison with  
15 Ecology is also present for this hearing, as well as a  
16 court reporter that will be present to record your  
17 comments. She's asked that you speak clearly and  
18 slowly. If she has any difficult, she will let you  
19 know.

20 To start the public hearing, I will call the  
21 first speaker as indicated on the sign-in sheet. To  
22 expedite the process, we will also call the following  
23 speaker, who should remain seated until the current  
24 speaker is finished.

25 If you had have a verbal comment for the record,

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1 please come forward, speak into the microphone, state  
2 your name, spell your last name, state the  
3 organization and the group that you represent, and  
4 then present your comment. You will be given four  
5 minutes to state your comment. At three minutes we  
6 will let you know that you have one minute remaining  
7 by holding up a yellow card.

8 If you do not wish to give a verbal comment this  
9 afternoon, you're still able to make a comment on the  
10 document either by submitting a written comment to  
11 Reclamation, which the comment period ends March 31st,  
12 either by e-mail, fax or call in your comment. And  
13 those phone numbers and addresses are available at the  
14 back table out in the lobby.

15 At this time, we'll begin the hearing with our  
16 first speaker, who is John Osborn.

17

18 JOHN OSBORN

19 My name is John Osborn, O-S-B-O-R-N. I'm  
20 here as a board member of the Center for Environmental  
21 Law and Policy, and I also chair the Sierra Club's  
22 Upper Columbia River Group based in Spokane, my  
23 professional work as the senior physician at the  
24 Spokane Veterans Hospital.

25 I wanted to talk just briefly regarding the

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1 backdrop to this decision. It's best I think to  
2 approach the issue in terms of the environmental  
3 history of the Columbia River.

4 On August 12th of 1805 Lewis & Clark first  
5 stepped foot into a watershed, a place where people  
6 lived in dynamic equilibrium with the watershed for  
7 thousands of years, and in 200 years profound changes  
8 have occurred. These can be systematically approached  
9 looking at a series of historic overlays, the river  
10 land grants, particularly the Northern Pacific, the  
11 1872 mining law, the drawing of state boundaries, the  
12 establishment of national forests, and then dam  
13 building.

14 I think linked to the dam building history of the  
15 Columbia has been a long history of water over  
16 appropriation, and that's really what is driving a lot  
17 of the discussion here today.

18 Both CELP and the Sierra Club will be submitting  
19 additional and substantive comments in our opposition  
20 to the Black Rock Dam, but I did want to make a couple  
21 of points here.

22 One is that the geology beneath the damming at  
23 the site is unstable. There's a thrust belt that's  
24 shown clearly on the geologic cross section area upon  
25 the watershed, and also prone to landslides. I grew

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1 up in Southern Idaho, where we experienced up front  
2 the Teton Dam disaster.

3 Secondly, seepage on the Hanford site, I think  
4 the public can tolerate no risk at Hanford. The  
5 challenge there is great enough as it is, without  
6 adding to the seepage problem.

7 Energy issues, we'd be talking about an  
8 incredible energy drain, when we're already facing  
9 questions about our energy future, to pump water from  
10 the Columbia River 1,400 feet to try to fill up the  
11 Black Rock pool.

12 Another issue is lack of water availability.  
13 Where is that water going to come from?

14 And, finally, the cost. And I think that NED is  
15 clear here that the benefit-cost ratio, 16 cents on  
16 the dollar, is outrageous, and that this is an  
17 outrageously expensive project.

18 Where do we go with the Yakima specifically and,  
19 perhaps more broadly, with the Columbia River  
20 Watershed in terms of the problems resulting from over  
21 appropriation. You know, we need to look hard at  
22 conservation and we need to price water for what it's  
23 worth. If we did that, things would be very  
24 different.

25 Fish passenger for the Yakima River. And

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1 finally, an element that's discussed in the executive  
2 summary of the Draft EIS, and that's natural storage.  
3 And I think really looking at investing and restoring  
4 our watersheds and connecting them with the  
5 floodplains to reestablish environmental integrity of  
6 the watershed. Thank you very much.

7 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Our next  
8 speaker is Norm Johnson.

9  
10 NORM JOHNSON

11 Thank you very much, and I appreciate the  
12 Bureau providing this opportunity for me to speak on  
13 behalf of the Black Rock Project.

14 I am Norm Johnson, J-O-H-N-S-O-N, Yakima City  
15 Council, and I am speaking on my own behalf and in the  
16 absence of Mayor David Edler of the City of Yakima,  
17 who is currently enjoying the balmy weather of the  
18 Mexican Riviera.

19 A little bit about myself. I was born in  
20 Toppenish nearly 70 years ago and have lived in this  
21 valley all of that time except for the years spent in  
22 college and the military. I have been in municipal  
23 government for 25 years serving as a council member in  
24 Mabton, Toppenish and now in Yakima.

25 I feel I'm well versed in the benefits of the

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1 Black Rock Project and the impact that project would  
2 have in this area of Central Washington. I do not  
3 feel that it is necessary to repeat the entire litany  
4 of the pros for or, for that matter, what some  
5 consider to be the cons of this project, although I  
6 feel that the cons can be solved to the benefit of  
7 all.

8 One of my chief concerns is the possibility of a  
9 long-term drought, and I believe that is very much  
10 within the realm of possibilities in this area. We  
11 have seen a number of shorter term droughts. Although  
12 I do not pretend to be an expert in weather  
13 predictions or economics, I can tell you from my own  
14 experience from living in this valley all of my life  
15 that a prolonged drought would have a far greater  
16 economic impact than the cost of this project, and I  
17 would encourage the Bureau and the private sector to  
18 work together to find a way to finance Black Rock.  
19 After all, we have had 75 years to do something and we  
20 need to finally get up and do it. Thank you very  
21 much.

22 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Next  
23 speaker is Arthur Miller.

24 MR. ARTHUR MILLER: Pass.

25 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Steven

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9

1 George.

2

3

STEVEN GEORGE

4

Good afternoon. My name is Steve George,

5

G-E-O-R-G-E. I'm here today representing the hop and

6

dairy industries of Yakima Valley, to give comments on

7

the recent storage study.

8

I represent the hop and dairy producers in the

9

Yakima Basin. Nearly all of these producers use water

10

from the Reclamation Project through local irrigation

11

districts. Combined, these industries generate close

12

to one-half billion dollars in farm gate value

13

annually.

14

As these agricultural activities require huge

15

amounts of inputs, those dollars help to stimulate our

16

local, state and national economies.

17

These industries, like most agricultural

18

operations, require a source of stable inputs. As

19

testimony to the structure present in the Yakima

20

Valley, agricultural inputs such as land, equipment,

21

transportation and water have been available that

22

allow for these industries to become established and

23

maintained. Without input stability, these industries

24

cannot operate.

25

Since 1977, the Yakima Basin has had severe water

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1 shortages. In the beginning, these shortages were  
2 primarily due to weather. Since that time, water  
3 shortages have come more frequently, mostly due to  
4 weather, but also due to additional demands on our  
5 water sources, exasperating the situation.

6 The state sponsored watershed plan known as the  
7 2514 process, after the House Bill that created it,  
8 completed a multiyear water study a few years ago.  
9 The study cost nearly \$3 million and acquired the  
10 services of some of the best water consultants in the  
11 state. The study found there was a storage of water  
12 in the Yakima Basin. Those shortages were identified  
13 as for fish, people and agricultural. It is my  
14 understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation studied  
15 some of these same elements in their process that  
16 brought us here today.

17 The study found that the basin can be short  
18 approximately 475,000 acre-feet of water annually. It  
19 also found that conservation measures cannot meet this  
20 requirement for water; can't even come close to  
21 meeting it.

22 The study also found that there was little  
23 support for on-stream storage facilities. The Black  
24 Rock Reservoir met the qualifications of an off-stream  
25 storage site.

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1           The study that we're commenting on today has  
2           found that the cost-benefit ratio for the Black Rock  
3           project is not positive.  However, since the BOR has  
4           restrictive guidelines, it did not take into account  
5           all of the elements that would affect the outcome.  
6           Other studies have found that by taking these  
7           undocumented elements into account, the ratio could be  
8           positive.

9           It seems ironic that the issue of fish  
10          restoration was not fully taken into the account, as  
11          the Bureau works on fish enhancement and passage  
12          issues as we speak today.

13          One would think that there would be a high value  
14          placed on fish with all the resources going into this  
15          effort and all of the litigation that has transpired  
16          in the past.  One would think that crop would have a  
17          very high value as we look at less than a 30-day world  
18          supply of wheat, and shortages of acreages to grow  
19          crops in this valley such as hay, corn and hops.

20          Not only do fish and agricultural need ample  
21          water supplies, but people will need water as our  
22          communities continue to grow.  Static or declining  
23          communities do not flourish.  Taking water from  
24          current allocations for other uses does not address  
25          our water shortage issue.  It only diminishes the

1 value from where it was taken.

2 Water storage sites and management structures  
3 have been studied in the Yakima Basin for years. We  
4 know how much water we need, we know where it's needed  
5 today and into the future. The Black Rock Reservoir  
6 is the only alternative that meets these requirements,  
7 both in the amount of water it can generate and being  
8 located in the least environmentally sensitive area in  
9 the Basin. If all economic considerations were taken  
10 into account, it could likely have a very positive  
11 return ratio.

12 Water management and supply in the Yakima Basin  
13 continues to be precarious. Some of these issues  
14 should have been addressed when the Reclamation  
15 project was initiated, but they were not, leaving one  
16 to wonder what liability the Bureau has and if this  
17 liability will translate into future litigation. The  
18 Yakima Basin continues to rely on water storage --

19 HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Time is up.  
20 Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Thomas Allen.

22  
23 THOMAS ALLEN

24 Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Tom  
25 Will Allen. That's A-L-L-E-N. And I represent -- I

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1 used to represent an army at one time when I was on  
2 active duty, but I guess I'm going to say I represent  
3 one working man, me.

4 One of the first days in college I took a stat  
5 class and the professor put on the board there's three  
6 kinds of people in the world: Liars, damn liars, and  
7 statisticians. And I believe that must have been  
8 statisticians that did this study. It is way off  
9 mark.

10 I want to thank the Bureau of Reclamation and  
11 other government workers, which I was one for about 20  
12 years, for having the guts to do this. I'm grateful  
13 to be in the only country in the world that would let  
14 a common person like me to do this. I tip my hat to  
15 Mike, who's not here, and to Bob Hall and Mel Wagner  
16 and Gary Lukehart, who are, and hope that somebody in  
17 this government and this society of ours listens to  
18 some of the economic elders, not just those people who  
19 are getting paid by our taxes, when it comes to  
20 improving our community and our world.

21 Life is not a risk-free enterprise. We're all  
22 going to die. The question is, are we going to leave  
23 the world a better place.

24 I've been in this valley about 23 years. Grew up  
25 back East. I've owned a boat every year since age 12,

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1 so I've got about 40 years of boating under my belt.  
2 I'm here to tell you that not taking recreation into  
3 this, for a guy with a Bachelor of Arts degree, no  
4 expert, but I've got a BA in economics, and these land  
5 labor capital mount inertia (phonetic), this  
6 government hasn't given us enough water storage.

7 According to hydrogeologists I listened to from  
8 either BLM or BOR some years ago at the Yakima Lions  
9 Club, there's enough precipitation that the creator  
10 provides this valley for every fish, every person,  
11 every business and every environmentalist to have  
12 enough, but we don't store it. We don't take  
13 advantage of the natural advantage that God has given  
14 us, the great transportation group we've got here, all  
15 this land that's not being used.

16 And I think they put the cart before the horse  
17 because they're looking at payoffs, they're not  
18 looking at costs; i.e., when we have a water-short  
19 year, and there's been two of them I think in the last  
20 five, the number of a billion dollars of crop loss or  
21 economic loss gets tossed about.

22 In the life of this reservoir, 50 or 100 years,  
23 whatever it would be, how many times would it save us  
24 from a water-short year.

25 What about the military aspects? Would the

1 military train in the lake, would the navy be here,  
2 with the coast guard be here, would the army do ranger  
3 operations. Would there be another component that has  
4 been overlooked.

5 When Colin Powell spoke in Spokane a few years  
6 ago, he got asked in the Q and A, What's the most  
7 important thing for the U.S. to do to maintain our  
8 defense, and he had a one word answer. That answer  
9 was "food". It's criminal and obscene that we don't  
10 use all the land here that we can and use what God has  
11 given us, the talents to harness the water for  
12 everybody's benefit.

13 At one time, 52 percent of the people in this  
14 county received a transfer payment from the federal  
15 government. How much of that would go away? What's  
16 the social cost of that? If we could take five or ten  
17 percent of those checks away, how many billions of  
18 that, or millions.

19 What about the benefit of the multiplier factor  
20 of all the wages and building supplies that would  
21 obtained. All those workers are going to work at  
22 prevailing wage. Lots more than most people in this  
23 community earn. They have got to spend it somewhere,  
24 they have got to eat, they have got to put gas in  
25 their truck, and they have got to stay somewhere for

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1 the time the project is built.

2 What about the inevitable tourism benefits. What  
3 about the fact that we probably have an ability to not  
4 depend strictly on agricultural, that it would be a  
5 boom to tourism.

6 Time?

7 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Yes.

8 MR. TOM ALLEN: Thank you for listening.

9 HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker will be Rick Dieker.

11

12 RICK DIEKER

13 My name is Rick Dieker, and I'm employed by  
14 the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District. I want to  
15 start off by saying that -- D-I-E-K-E-R is how you  
16 spell my last name -- is that my views are not of the  
17 irrigation district. In fact, our district has not  
18 taken any formal position on the Black Rock Project or  
19 the storage initiative at this point, except to say  
20 that we are in favor of additional storage in this  
21 Basin. It would be one of the aspects to solve the  
22 issues that we face here for this watershed by not  
23 having enough storage.

24 First of all, I'd like to say the Black Rock  
25 Project I believe is not really feasible because of

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1 the cost. Not only the construction cost, but also  
2 the annual cost of \$60 million, the bumping and the  
3 O & M costs.

4 And I'm in favor of -- I do believe that the  
5 Wymer Project is a more feasible project. It does not  
6 meet the 70 percent goal that is in the storage  
7 initiative, but it does add 16.5 percent additional  
8 storage to the Basin, which is a plus, and it is  
9 affordable to operate on a yearly basis, and I think  
10 is the money could be raised and come in.

11 I think also the Bureau earlier in this process  
12 made a mistake when they took the Bumping Project  
13 enhancement out. There are large environmental  
14 concerns there, of course, but I think the idea that  
15 you have to gauge something by whether it impacts the  
16 enormity of flow of the river, which is a moving  
17 target, is a fallacy. This is a managed watershed and  
18 always will be.

19 And as long as you have storage reservoirs and  
20 irrigation and infrastructure, you're going to have a  
21 managed watershed. And if you have a storage, the  
22 Wymer storage halfway down the system as an  
23 off-storage site and add another headwater storage,  
24 that will increase the probability of managing the  
25 water to the benefit of all interests.

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1           And if you do agree with the concept of climate  
2           change, which the science is still out on it, but if  
3           you do agree that there will be changes in the climate  
4           earlier runoff, change in the snow versus rain, it  
5           just makes sense to put more storage in the Basin to  
6           capture those and have that availability for future  
7           use and current use. Thank you very much.

8                           HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: The next  
9           speaker is Urban Eberhart.

10

11                           URBAN EBERHART

12                           Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My  
13           name is Urban Eberhart, and my last named name is  
14           spelled E-B-E-R-H-A-R-T. I am the current Chairman of  
15           the Board of the Kittitas Reclamation District, which  
16           is a district that is fully proratable in the Upper  
17           Yakima Basin and provides water to 59,122.2 acres in  
18           the Kittitas County area.

19                           The Kittitas Reclamation District supports the  
20           construction of additional storage in the Yakima  
21           Basin, and we've been very active throughout the years  
22           in supporting it and working with the development of  
23           the Yakima River Basin Enhancement Project in its  
24           current version, which was passed and signed by  
25           President Clinton in October, October 31st, 1994.

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1           And as we were working that version through  
2 Congress, it was very clear with the committees that  
3 we were speaking to that that version is and would be  
4 an interim step to additional storage.

5           The Yakima Basin Project has never been completed  
6 and we do need additional storage. Conservation will  
7 not provide enough water to meet the water needs, meet  
8 all the water needs for the users in the Basin. And  
9 the only way to provide a consistent and adequate  
10 supply of water for all of the users and all of the  
11 needs in Yakima Basin is through additional storage.

12           And we will have some more comments later in the  
13 comment period. Thank you.

14                   HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Next  
15 speaker will be Joel Freudenthal.

16  
17                                   JOEL FREUDENTHAL

18                   Joel Freudenthal, fish and wildlife  
19 biologist, Yakima County Public Surfaces.

20           I work for the county and have been involved in  
21 numerous processes that study water resources, fish,  
22 fish habitat, riverine processes and flood hazard.  
23 These include the development of the watershed plan,  
24 subbasin plan, salmon recovery plan, and interaction  
25 with the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development

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1 Account.

2 Alternatives under consideration in the storage  
3 study have the potential to fundamentally change water  
4 availability and water resource management in the  
5 Yakima Basin and significantly affect water use and  
6 availability in the Columbia River as well. As such,  
7 I've been directed by the Board of Yakima County  
8 Commissioners to review the storage study and briefly  
9 comment on major issues today. More extensive written  
10 comments on the EIS will be submitted by the County at  
11 a later date.

12 The first issue I'd like to address is the  
13 economic analysis. For the storage study, Reclamation  
14 did adopt the goal of no less than 70 percent  
15 proration, which is consistent with the Watershed  
16 Management Plan. While the goal is consistent with  
17 the Watershed Plan, the rationale which leads to  
18 development of that goal has not been included in the  
19 economic analysis.

20 The document states that benefits for the storage  
21 alternatives are only realized in those years that the  
22 proration level would drop below 70 percent, and the  
23 increased storage and reliability have no effect in  
24 the years that are not prorated.

25 The original studies, for instance, Montgomery

1 Water Group, 2002, that led to the development of this  
2 goal, were based on economic studies that showed the  
3 entire economy of the basin was influenced in all  
4 years by the risks associated with proration and  
5 drought. Reduce that risk and the economy in the  
6 basin is improved in each and every year. Basically  
7 the economic analysis misses the point, the premise  
8 and legislative intent which resulted in the storage  
9 study.

10 Further, it appears that this approach is  
11 inconsistent with the P&G the Reclamation uses to  
12 guide the development of planning reports. The  
13 current approach only deals with the subset of one of  
14 the two NED accounts required by the P&G.

15 The EIS should be amended to include all of the  
16 elements for damage reduction, intensification and  
17 efficiency benefits that are economically accrued from  
18 reduced drought risk, as put forth in the P&Gs.

19 Secondly, Ecology funded a significant proportion  
20 of the study to the Columbia River Water Supply  
21 Development Account. In the use of these funds, the  
22 legislature directed Ecology to focus its efforts to  
23 develop water supplies for the Columbia River Basin on  
24 the following needs: Alternative to groundwater for  
25 agricultural users in Odessa, sources of water supply

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1 for pending water right applications, a new  
2 uninterrupted supply of water for the holders of  
3 interruptible water rights on the Columbia River  
4 mainstem that are subject to instream flows or other  
5 mitigation conditions to protect stream flows, and new  
6 and municipal, domestic, industrial and irrigation  
7 water needs within the Columbia River Basin.

8 The EIS did not address many of the these topics  
9 in relation to the Columbia River or the increased  
10 water supply to the mainstem Columbia provided by  
11 Black Rock alternative.

12 I recognize that congressional restrictions  
13 limited the Bureau's analysis to a specific geographic  
14 area, but Ecology is not limited in its analysis and  
15 has been specifically by the legislature to look at  
16 issues associated with the Columbia River.

17 Ecology has the legislative direction to perform  
18 such an analysis. This should be included in the  
19 environmental review process prior to preparation of  
20 the decision document for all the way through a  
21 Supplemental EIS consistent with the storage study and  
22 the Columbia River Water Supply Development. Thank  
23 you.

24 THE REPORTER: Could you spell your last  
25 name, please.

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MR. JOEL FREUDENTHAL:

F-R-E-U-D-E-N-T-H-A-L.

HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Next

speaker, Terry Keenhan.

TERRY KEENHAN

Hello, I'm Terry Keenhan. I'm the surface water manager at Yakima County, and I've been asked to present some comments on this. I'm just going to mention three of them because we will provide written comments. My last name is K-E-E-N-H-A-N.

I have been working on dams since 1971, until I last -- actually two years ago, and so I have quite a bit of experience. I'm an engineer, and some of my points are around some of these issues.

The County is a cooperating partner, which means that we reviewed the October draft, and so we made some comments then, and I'm going to address some of that at this time.

The first is in regards to Black Rock, relative to the seepage. And I made some comments at that time that in doing a risk study, you don't just identify the potential hazard and then assume that that will happen. So typically what's done in an EIS or an engineering study is that you look at the mitigation.



1           You look at the likelihood first, and then you look at  
2           the mitigation, and then you look at the problem, what  
3           really your potential is, so the probable. So those  
4           comments were actually grabbed and the Bureau made  
5           those changes, and I was quite happy about that.

6           I did notice that the OSE and EQ accounts were  
7           not modified as a result of that, which have heavy  
8           weigh ins towards seepage and other things which would  
9           create a fairly dark picture, where you don't have the  
10          information at this stage. So that was one comment.

11          Then the other one is on climate change. I have  
12          been a practicing hydrologist for quite a long time,  
13          as well as a hydraulics engineer, so I've spent 17  
14          years with PC Hydro looking at all their dams. And  
15          the actual englacier mass, the balance studies, are  
16          one of the things that I did at that time. And this  
17          particular area, I went back and looked at that after  
18          I went through the material in your EIS, and we have a  
19          real trend here since 1946, a two-degree change in  
20          mass wasting in the glaciers, which shows that the  
21          snowpack is going away.

22          So that trend is not going to reverse itself. In  
23          fact, it's probably going to go the other way. And  
24          the information you have in the EIS part of this, what  
25          is stated is that we -- or the report states that the

1 precipitation stuff is pretty solid, but the  
2 temperature stuff is not, so therefore we won't even  
3 do that. So I don't find that very consistent because  
4 that's the opposite of what is happening with the  
5 seepage at Black Rock. So you took one where it  
6 didn't work and one where it worked, so that was a  
7 real inconsistency.

8 I think there are real concerns for this Basin.  
9 I believe those numbers, above 50 percent of  
10 production of the summer flows. I think that's just a  
11 tip of the iceberg. Having come from virginia, gone  
12 through a very large drought, and now coming here, we  
13 started a second drought, it's a new trend.

14 And the last part is, I have worked on benefit-  
15 cost studies, Three Gorges feasibility, and I have  
16 never seen a dam that's built with a positive benefit-  
17 cost ratio, except for an hydroelectric dam, and it  
18 took benefits that were outside of the region into  
19 effect. So the scope of this benefit-cost is flawed.  
20 Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you,  
22 Terry.

23 Next speaker, Bob Hall.

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BOB HALL

Good afternoon. My name is Bob Hall,  
H-A-L-L. I'm a member of the Yakima Basin Storage  
Alliance's Board of Directors, I'm a Yakima automobile  
dealer, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and  
Yakima County Development Association.

I'm here today to speak to put on the record for  
those that will hear the facts and read the facts and  
be making decisions on this critically important issue  
for us as a community, us as a region, and us as a  
Nation.

The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance, to go on  
record, is a consortium of non-interested in each  
other's party. We are not aligned strategically in  
business, we are not aligned strategically for the  
Yakima Basin Storage Alliance. We are aligned as a  
community interest to bring a solution to what has  
been identified as a shortage in our community since  
1945, on a project that was built from 1903 to 1933.

We have over 40,000 supporters that will be  
presenting in written form to you by the end of March,  
we have over 350 investors, and Yakima Basin Storage  
Alliance is a proponent for solution. And this has  
been identified by the Basin Alliance as a marathon,  
and we are nearing the sprint stage of a very long and

1 very tedious project.

2 It's important that we state publicly that from  
3 the day one to this day, this is a public private  
4 partnership that can only be funded by all parties  
5 participating, not just the federal government. State  
6 government, county government, city government and a  
7 substantial portion from private enterprise.

8 In its broadest form, we have a glass that I  
9 always look at as half full. You will have proponents  
10 on the other side of the question that may look at it  
11 half empty. And I would build the case that we are  
12 managing risk. Without risk, this country wouldn't be  
13 what it is. Without risk, this county and Kittitas  
14 County and Benton County wouldn't enjoy the spotlight  
15 of the world through our high, high quality production  
16 of agricultural products and manufactured products  
17 that are purchased and used throughout the world, and  
18 our ability to draw visitors through our recreation  
19 and our sites from all over the world that leave their  
20 dollars here.

21 Yes, this is economic. In 1991 the assessed  
22 value of all three counties was under \$10 billion.  
23 Today the assessed value of all three counties exceeds  
24 \$34 billion, a small investment to ensure that our  
25 real estate values and the values of this community

1 and our production stay in place.

2 Grand Coulee, our five reservoirs, were built  
3 without a cost benefit analysis, but look at what they  
4 have returned. We are against what we're for,  
5 eliminating the potential of droughts, increasing  
6 salmon flow, and providing water for our  
7 municipalities for growth, jobs, recreation and  
8 agricultural production, and fish.

9 Urgency is critical that we solve this now, and  
10 the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance are in the game to  
11 represent the community to bring solution so that our  
12 children and our grandchildren aren't still attempting  
13 to solve our challenge. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

15 Gary Lukehart.

16

17 GARY LUKEHART

18 I'm Gary Lukehart. That's spelled  
19 L-U-K-E-H-A-R-T. I'm a resident of Naches. I live in  
20 the Naches River Valley. I have a ranch. I'm also a  
21 businessman in the community, and I serve on the Board  
22 of Directors of the Yakima Alliance, Basin Alliance.

23 I'd like to respond primarily to the study that  
24 was done for Black Rock. I'm obviously interested in  
25 seeing the Black Rock Reservoir being built to solve

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1           our problems for the future.

2           I would like to point out the fact that I think  
3           that the cost to benefit ratios that were established  
4           for this study, I think they didn't carry enough  
5           weight for the migrant fish. And I think that  
6           Bonneville Power has been spending an enormous amount  
7           of money trying to solve that problem by themselves,  
8           and this would be help, a lot of help. And basically  
9           what we really need is a better water supply and a  
10          consistent water supply to help with the fish, along  
11          with the farming.

12          The other area that I felt that the benefits  
13          didn't spend enough time on was really the economic  
14          impact of the reservoir itself in terms of commercial  
15          development and recreation, and I think those things  
16          have to be added in. It's awfully difficult to come  
17          up with these exact numbers, and they are guesses, but  
18          I think that the people that built the dams 75 years  
19          ago were probably dealing with less information than  
20          we have here, and they were able to see through the  
21          light and build these dams that now serve the state of  
22          Washington. And I believe that the Black Rock  
23          Reservoir would serve that purpose to take care of the  
24          our water needs for the future. Thank you.

25                           HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

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1                   The next speaker will be Mel Wagner.

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3                                   MEL WAGNER

4                   Thank you for this opportunity. My name is  
5 Mel Wagner, W-A-G-N-E-R.

6                   I had the privilege of serving with the Yakima  
7 River Watershed Council in 1994, and I learned a lot  
8 about the problem we're trying to deal with today, and  
9 I'd like to review some of the lessons I learned and  
10 who the teachers were.

11                   The very first lesson I learned was from the  
12 Bureau, that we don't have an adequate supply of water  
13 to deal with the water rights that we have.

14                   The second lesson came from the environmental  
15 community and the Yakama Indian Nation Fisheries, and  
16 they taught me that we have inadequate flows in the  
17 Yakima River in the summertime, especially in drought  
18 years, and the water is too low and it's too warm for  
19 fish.

20                   The third lesson I learned was conservation. We  
21 need to conserve water and use it more wisely. And we  
22 passed that problem on to the agricultural community  
23 in the Lower Valley, and they have done a wonderful  
24 job of improving the conservation.

25                   One of the complaints was the plume that came out

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1 down in the Granger area that contaminated the Yakima  
2 River. They have practically totally eliminated that.  
3 And then the communities complained. They not only  
4 had a shortage of water, but their growth was  
5 threatened.

6 The Watershed Council studied ahead in the future  
7 and studied in the past. We've had potential  
8 solutions developed over the past 50 years, but every  
9 time competing views come up with one decision: No  
10 Action.

11 This began 14 years ago. The area has increased  
12 in population and water needs, and now we have climate  
13 change which is threatening our future. No action is  
14 not an acceptable alternative. We must grow up and be  
15 mature enough to deal with the problem that we're  
16 faced with.

17 It is certainly a value that this was sagebrush  
18 75 years ago and now, with the development of five  
19 reservoirs, it's three communities with a net property  
20 value of \$34 billion. And we have to be mature. Only  
21 if we're willing to witness the total loss of salmon,  
22 the destruction of our economy, can we do No Action.

23 Black Rock is the answer. It makes winners out  
24 of every element. Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

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1                   The next speaker will be Rockey Marshall.

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ROCKEY MARSHALL

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                  Good afternoon. My name is Rockey Marshall,  
and I've been a carpenter here in this community for  
over 30 years. For the last eight years, I've been a  
representative of 350 union carpenters here in the  
Basin. I'm also a board member of the Yakima Basin  
Storage Alliance.

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                  I'm proud to say that the Carpenters Local 770,  
the Central Washington Building Trades, the Washington  
State Building Trades, the Pacific Northwest Regional  
Council of Carpenters, the Yakima South Central  
Counties Central Labor Council, and the Washington  
State Labor Council all support the Black Rock  
Project. I and others have worked hard in getting  
Congress to provide the appropriations for the study,  
and now I'd like to take just a few moments to talk  
about the purpose of the study.

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                  The purpose of the storage study, as stated in  
the report by the Bureau of Reclamation, is to  
evaluate plans that would create additional water  
storage for the Yakima River Basin. The Bureau of  
Reclamation was to assess each plan's potential to  
supply water needed for fish and the aquatic resources

1           that support them and the Basin. It was also to  
2           assess irrigation and future municipality needs.

3           The reason for the study was we have a finite  
4           existing water supply and a limited storage capability  
5           of the Yakima River Basin. This finite supply and  
6           limited storage capability does not meet the water  
7           supply demands in all years, resulting in significant  
8           adverse impacts to the Yakima River Basin's economy  
9           and to the Basin's aquatic resources.

10          Specifically affecting those resources that  
11          support anadromous fish, Reclamation and Ecology's  
12          purpose was to identified means of increasing water  
13          supplies available for improving fish habitat and  
14          meeting irrigation and future municipal needs.

15          The Black Rock Project meets and exceeds all the  
16          required benefits in the storage study. With Black  
17          Rock being a water neutral project, flows in the  
18          Yakima River will increase and the water will return  
19          to the Columbia River with a greater number of fish.  
20          Black Rock will be our insurance policy when our  
21          region suffers from the full impact of climate change  
22          we are now starting to experience.

23          The Yakima Basin Storage Alliance is not focused  
24          on national economic benefits or regional economic  
25          benefits, but rather on what is needed to ensure a

1 reliable water supply for the Basin's future. We have  
2 tried to look at a full array of beneficial effects,  
3 which the Bureau cannot look at because of its  
4 principles and guidelines. Since the Bureau has been  
5 using these principles and guidelines, no project that  
6 has had the irrigation component has met the cost  
7 benefit ratio.

8 I'm concerned that based on the cost benefit  
9 ratio being so low, that the Bureau will recommend No  
10 Action. No Action is not acceptable. It's going to  
11 leave us high and dry in the future.

12 As stated in the Planning Report, a preferred  
13 alternative may be identified in the Final Planning  
14 Report.

15 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: Thank you,  
16 Mr. Marshall.

17 Next speaker is Warren Dickman.

18  
19 WARREN DICKMAN

20 Good afternoon. I appreciate the  
21 opportunity to talk a bit to you folks. The spelling  
22 of the name, D-I-C-K-M-A-N. I'm a retired manager of  
23 Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, and a YBSA board  
24 member.

25 I'm going to be talking primarily about benefits

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1 to cost. This is a key issue in the process of moving  
2 Black Rock to a completion. This hurdle must be  
3 cleared so the project can go forward.

4 I have an understanding of table 2.48 on page  
5 2-77 of the report that puts a total cost to Black  
6 Rock Project projected to be 6.7 billion. The  
7 benefits are stated as 1.045 billion, and this leaves  
8 a negative total of 5.7 billion. And the benefit to  
9 cost is shown as .16. Now, this tells me that 16  
10 cents will be the expected return on each dollar  
11 invested under this scenario.

12 Now, this data is developed using current Bureau  
13 guidelines. I've heard their explanation of the  
14 Bureau guidelines and feel that the numbers quoted in  
15 the report follow the guidelines as -- they address  
16 the guidelines that they were handed.

17 Now, Black Rock is a multifaceted project and I  
18 don't believe gets a fair benefit to cost  
19 consideration under the antiquated guidelines under  
20 which the Bureau must operate. These antiquated  
21 guidelines place no value on salmon recovery. YBSA  
22 places a value of 2.6 billion for the restoration of  
23 the salmon run.

24 No value is placed on the restored salmon run for  
25 use by the Yakama Nation and the cultural values of

1 fish for the members of the Tribe. Cultural values of  
2 the fish could be priceless.

3 No figure is given for the benefits of recreation  
4 provided for the area above the waterline. A report  
5 by Mitchell Nelson dated January, 2007 places a value  
6 of 3.5 billion on this important side benefit.

7 For each drought that occurs, additional losses  
8 of three-quarters of a billion will be lost to more  
9 basin. Eliminating this loss would certainly be  
10 considered a benefit.

11 To have a true benefit to cost ratio, these  
12 important contributors, salmon recovery, recreation  
13 and water for drought years, should be included in the  
14 benefit to cost ratios. If only the 3.5 million for  
15 recreation and the 2.6 billion for salmon recovery are  
16 used, this would mean 6.1 billion that could be added  
17 to the benefit side of the ledger.

18 The items previously mentioned are all big ticket  
19 items, and there are other items that could be  
20 considered, too, as a plus. Early construction and  
21 completion of Black Rock would provide cost reduction  
22 from estimates reported in the cost.

23 We all need to get this thing going, get it built  
24 and start using it. Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

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1                   The next speaker, Alan Finch.

2

3                                   ALAN FINCH

4                   My name is Alan Finch, F-I-N-C-H. And I  
5 represent my business, Mayflower Metals.

6                   I fully support the Black Rock Reservoir Project.  
7 Three reasons for that. As an citizen, I realize I'm  
8 a beneficiary of those that had the vision of an  
9 irrigated Yakima Valley. I came here in 1967 with my  
10 family. My dad farmed 20 acres and he worked on a --  
11 managed an apple ranch. And I'm a beneficiary of what  
12 these guys did, though both of those entities had the  
13 SVID projects supplying them.

14                   I'm sure that the same doubts and challenges  
15 confronted those individuals back then that built our  
16 existing systems, and I expect we will show the same  
17 farsightedness and build a resource that will benefit  
18 us and generations in the future.

19                   The second reason, my business I believe will  
20 benefit from this project any way that we can use our  
21 water resources. Increasing and stabilizing them will  
22 be a benefit to agriculture, cities, fisheries, and it  
23 would strengthen the commercial and industrial  
24 environment of this area. This would, in turn,  
25 strengthen and increase the clients that my company

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1 provides services to.

2 And, thirdly, as an investor, looking at the  
3 economics, certainly the economic benefits of Black  
4 Rock Reservoir, that the benefits it would provide  
5 have been underestimated. Our location, which gives  
6 us the products and the access to the world's fastest  
7 growing area, Asia and the Pacific Rim, is worth this  
8 significant investment. I expect the demand for  
9 agricultural products to continue to grow, along with  
10 the population and the service industries required to  
11 support farming.

12 I have and will support using existing funds, any  
13 additional taxes necessary to complete this project.  
14 And I think the vision of the people that built these  
15 projects we now enjoy should be our vision that we  
16 have now. Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

18 The next speaker, Michael Garrity.

19

20 MICHAEL GARRITY

21 Thanks for the opportunity to comment. My  
22 name is Michael Garrity. I'm with American Rivers,  
23 the Northwest Regional Office for Natural River  
24 Conservation Organization. And my last name is  
25 spelled G-A-R-R-I-T-Y.

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1 I've just got some brief comments. We'll be  
2 submitting detailed written comments in March. But  
3 based on the Draft EIS, it looks to American Rivers as  
4 if the Black Rock proposal is too costly, with too  
5 little fish benefit, as well as too risky to build  
6 because of the concerns about seepage and Hanford.

7 We support a lot of the goals of this study when  
8 it comes to increase in flows, protecting fish and  
9 helping meet the water needs in the basin, but just  
10 don't see Black Rock as the way to do it.

11 As far as fish go, the benefits of flow alone are  
12 fairly minor, as the study shows, and we would like to  
13 see a detailed analysis of what floodplain and reach  
14 restoration can do, along with fish passage, adapt  
15 stream reservoirs, and the combined effects of some of  
16 the alternatives that were examined by the Department  
17 of Ecology, including enhanced water conservation,  
18 market based allocation of water, and groundwater  
19 recharge, and see how that fits in. And ultimately  
20 see how the cost and benefits of doing those  
21 activities here fit in with that obligation to restore  
22 listed populations of salmon and steelhead throughout  
23 the Columbia Basin and maintain and group habitat for  
24 the unlisted species.

25 But 6.7 billion is not likely to be seen as an



1 equitable share of resources for water supply and  
2 salmon recovery in the Basin overall and we need to  
3 find the most cost effective way to do that, and  
4 that's without the likely risk of mobilizing the  
5 groundwater, the contaminated groundwater under the  
6 nuclear reservation. Thanks.

7 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thanks.

8 Next speaker, Michael Morrisette.

9

10 MICHAEL MORRISETTE

11 Well, good afternoon and thank you for this  
12 opportunity. Mike Morrisette. The last name is  
13 spelled M-O-R-R-I-S-E-T-T-E. I'm here representing  
14 the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce. We are an  
15 organization that represents nearly 2,200 business  
16 professionals and over 1,600 companies operating in  
17 Yakima County.

18 The Commission of the Chamber is to protect and  
19 enhance economic vitality of our region as a means to  
20 improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

21 During my career as a Chamber professional, which  
22 spans some 29 years and three states and four  
23 communities, I have never encountered a project with  
24 greater potential for doing good than the one proposed  
25 by the Yakima Basin Storage Alliance. The Greater

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1 Yakima Chamber of Commerce therefore supports the  
2 Black Rock Reservoir as the best alternative for water  
3 storage, habitat and economic development. But not  
4 only for our region, but for the entire state.

5 We all know that we're living off the investments  
6 made by our ancestors some 75 years ago, when it comes  
7 to water storage here in Eastern Washington. We  
8 believe it's time that we step up and make our own  
9 investment on behalf of future generations that will  
10 be living here long after we're gone.

11 Both Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and  
12 the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group  
13 predicts severe decreases in Cascade snowpack by mid  
14 century and the CIG expects this loss of natural  
15 mountain storage capacity will result in reduced  
16 summer stream flows by 20 to 50 percent. Therefore,  
17 in our opinion, the alternative to do nothing now is  
18 just not an option.

19 Here are a few reasons why we support Black Rock  
20 as the best alternative: We believe the success of  
21 our economy depends utterly on not only an adequate  
22 supply of water, but a growing supply of water for our  
23 region. The annual gross farm gate receipts  
24 contributes 1.5 billion annually to our economy,  
25 according to a 1990 study done by the University of

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1 Washington at Battelle Northwest.

2 There are conservative estimates indicating that  
3 in the last 12 years we've lost 2.2 billion in  
4 agriculture-related economic benefits and receipts due  
5 to the seasonal droughts. Meanwhile, our agriculture  
6 industries are growing, along with demand for a  
7 reliability supply of water for agricultural uses.

8 We believe only Black Rock has the water storage  
9 capacity to keep up with our future needs. Anything  
10 less can considerably stunt our growth and ability to  
11 sustain this needed resource.

12 The recreation value of the project we believe is  
13 neglected in the report, and we understand why. The  
14 economic benefit and residential and recreational  
15 property development stops at the waterline, so the  
16 estimated 3.5 billion found in Mitchell Nelson's  
17 report for development around the lake is not  
18 included. We feel that estimate, which only takes the  
19 expected development out for 20 years, is very, very  
20 low.

21 And we would ask you to consider two new housing  
22 developments currently underway here in the valley,  
23 the Vineyards and Zillah Lakes projects. The lots are  
24 going for over \$300,000 or more.

25 Black Rock sits dead center in our fast growing

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1 wine country and industry that will soon rifle that in  
2 the Napa Valley. And how can we not value this  
3 opportunity knocking at our door to grow this  
4 industry, create new jobs and propose international  
5 tourism.

6 Also, Black Rock meets the requirements of  
7 Congress. The Bureau of Reclamation study reports  
8 that Black Rock is the only alternative that meets all  
9 three criteria stipulated by the Congress.

10 Did you put up the yellow card? I didn't see.

11 MR. JOHN EVANS: I did, yeah.

12 MR. MICHAEL MORRISETTE: I'm sorry. I'll  
13 wrap it up.

14 So it meets all three requirements.

15 The BOR, we also underestimate the value the  
16 salmon recovery, and you'll hear more about that. We  
17 believe our storage capacity needs to supply a two- to  
18 four-year water supply, and right now in Yakima we  
19 store only 50 percent of our annual use.

20 So we feel it's urgency. We feel that the time  
21 is now and we need to do so.

22 HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

23 MR. MICHAEL MORRISETTE: We were told we had  
24 five minutes when we got our announcement, by the way.  
25 So we all timed ourselves for five minutes.

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1 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: You did  
2 very well.

3 Our next speaker is Dan Kinney.

4

5 DAN KINNEY

6 My name is Dan Kenney, spelled K-I-N-N-E-Y.  
7 I want to thank you for allowing me to testify to the  
8 Yakima Basin Water Storage Facility Feasibility Study,  
9 and I'm speaking on behalf of myself.

10 I'm a resident and a businessman in Yakima for  
11 over 40 years, and I have worked to provide a viable  
12 community, one that's both economically prosperous and  
13 offers the recreational opportunities of the great  
14 Northwest.

15 I believe that water is a very important  
16 ingredient in our lives here in Central Washington.  
17 Truly water has turned the desert into a fluke hole of  
18 the Nation and is the lifeblood of our valley.

19 As a member of the Yakima River Watershed Council  
20 Storage Committee, I studied and learned a great deal  
21 about the water needs and uses in the Yakima Valley.

22 In June of 1998 the Yakima River Watershed Council  
23 issued a report with the following recommendations to  
24 pursue the least cost, least economically damaging  
25 surface water storage reservoir as a potential means

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1 of making water available during the water short years  
2 for the recovery of our Basin's anadromous fish species  
3 and the legitimate needs of the current agriculture  
4 and municipal base.

5 In reviewing the Black Rock study plan with the  
6 recommendations in mind, the main problem that I find  
7 with the feasibility study is that the Black Rock is  
8 certainly not the least cost proposal. With the total  
9 project cost of \$4.5 billion and annual operating cost  
10 of \$60 million, this solution is too expensive for  
11 water users and taxpayers alike.

12 I might add that it is not very energy efficient.  
13 The additional pumping cost of \$50 million a year,  
14 that's enough energy for 54,000 homes, which would  
15 require the construction of another wind farm the size  
16 of the Wild Horse Project above Ellensburg to produce  
17 that much required energy.

18 Black Rock looks to me like an overblown  
19 solution. Why is the damage so large? Black Rock  
20 would store 1.3 million acre-feet of water behind a  
21 700-foot high dam, a dam that is higher and longer  
22 than the Grand Coulee, which holds back the mighty  
23 Columbia.

24 Black Rock would impound almost three and a half  
25 times the amount of water that is needed to bring the

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1 junior water rights districts to 70 percent of their  
2 entitlement in the worst year on record, in 1994, when  
3 they received only 37 percent.

4 The national economics development benefit cost  
5 ratio of only 16 cents shows the true folly of this  
6 proposal. There is already far too much spent on this  
7 unacceptable proposal. By contrast, the more  
8 conservative Bumping Lake enlargement could produce  
9 425,000 acre-feet increase and the Bureau of  
10 Reclamation's study said that that cost back in 1983  
11 would only be \$150 million, with an annual cost of  
12 \$100,000. Even adjusting those figures to the 2000  
13 cost estimates would fall far short of the Black  
14 Rock's \$4.5 billion price tag.

15 The golf courses, resorts and the real estate  
16 boom that proponents talk about are pure speculation  
17 and definitely should not be used as justification for  
18 increased irrigation storage.

19 Recreational values and commercial ventures are  
20 truly pie in the sky. And how can the operational  
21 objectives to maintains the Black Rock Reservoir at  
22 full capacity be received, when the Columbia River  
23 Basin Management Water Management Program has already  
24 stated that withdrawals of water from the Columbia  
25 River in July and August would be prohibited. Are not

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1 July and August not only prime recreational months, as  
2 well as the months of highest irrigation demand. How  
3 can the Black Rock claim --

4 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you,  
5 Mr. Kinney.

6 MR. DAN KINNEY: Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Next  
8 speaker is Vic Robert.

9

10 VIC ROBERT

11 My name is Vic Robert, R-O-B-E-R-T, no "S".

12 All right. I'm an old time Yakimanian. We've  
13 been out there east of where is the dam is proposed  
14 for 92 years on a ranch, a livestock ranch, and we  
15 know the value of water.

16 We in 1977 had two inches. That doesn't grow  
17 much grass. So if it don't grow much grass, how much  
18 would it irrigate your fields, your orchards, your  
19 vineyards? We need more storage.

20 We've been around here a long time. When I was a  
21 kid in the '30's, there was 18,000 people in Yakima.  
22 Now we've got 80,000. How much more water is being  
23 used?

24 And they say the cost. That's only three or four  
25 Stealth Bombers. They lost one the other day. What

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1 good did that do. There's a billion dollars in the  
2 ditch.

3 Hanford spent 30 years cleaning up the area, and  
4 they spent billions of dollars out there, and they  
5 haven't done a damn thing, and it's about time they do  
6 something. So I'm for it and my family is for it.  
7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.  
9 Next speaker is Mike Leita.

10

11 MIKE LEITA

12 That's a hard speech to follow. My name is  
13 Mike Leita, Yakima County Commissioner. I appreciate  
14 this opportunity. I'm going to be real quick here.  
15 And Yakima County will be fully engaged in this  
16 ongoing process.

17 In the '30's the federal government's vision was  
18 to build something out of nothing, and today our  
19 region benefits from those efforts, starting with  
20 Grand Coulee and our local reservoirs.

21 The temporary measures that were started back in  
22 the '80's, such as flip-flop, well drilling within the  
23 Kittitas, Yakima and Benton Counties in the Yakima  
24 River Basin, have become inadequate solutions.

25 The EIS and the cost benefit analysis really are

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1 about soft numbers. We throw around the numbers of  
2 billions of dollars without much -- You know, what's  
3 the difference between four billion and six billion?  
4 To me, it's two billion dollars.

5 The cost analysis that has gone in and the  
6 benefit analysis are very subjective. They need hard,  
7 solid justifications before any decision of this  
8 magnitude is made.

9 Yakima County understands what is at risk at this  
10 point in time, and it is a significant point in time  
11 for Yakima County. It is our future because water is  
12 life.

13 You've already heard how Yakima County, Benton  
14 County, Kittitas County has grown over the years. And  
15 if you think it's simply going to stop, that's not  
16 going to happen, and water for all purposes is  
17 essential.

18 My final comment is, my observation based upon  
19 our staff input and whatnot is that this process to  
20 date borders on the verge of an \$8 million travesty.  
21 Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.  
23 Next speaker, Amber Hansen.

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AMBER HANSEN

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing us to speak today. My name is Amber Hansen, H-A-N-S-E-N.

I'm manager of the Port of Sunnyside. I've been the manager there for the past 18 years. And, as you know, Sunnyside is very heavily into the agricultural business, just as most of Yakima County is.

My one concern or our one concern is that the Bureau will select as their preferred alternative No Action, and no No Action, as many people before me has said, is very unacceptable.

Black Rock is the only alternative that, as stated in their own study, that meets all the congressional criteria. In my opinion, in the No Action alternative is very unacceptable for the Yakima Basin's future. Yakima Basin needs a secure resource of water for the future to protect our fish and our agriculture for generations to come.

Our Governor has asked us, as a state, to look into and to try to be a grain fuel state. Well, most of that grain fuel is grown in the Yakima Valley. If we can't produce it with the water, then where are we going to get those corn and other grains to produce that grain fuel? Are we going to import that, too? I sure hope not.

1           The study by BOR completely underestimates the  
2           benefits of Black Rock due to constraints in its  
3           methodology. These constraints, if you used these  
4           constraints when they we were making the decisions for  
5           the five Yakima reservoirs and Grand Coulee, it  
6           probably wouldn't have been built because they may not  
7           have met the criteria.

8           In addition, they are not permitted or choose not  
9           to include recreation or land development benefits to  
10          the area in the cost analysis. In my opinion, that's  
11          very short sided. What better place is there for a  
12          lake than in the middle of sunny wine country.

13          Black Rock Project in this proposed location is  
14          entirely within the Port of Sunnyside, which is inside  
15          of Yakima County. We border Benton County and the  
16          Port of Benton. It's my understanding that all four  
17          municipalities, and I speak only for the Port of  
18          Sunnyside, recognize the cost benefits of having such  
19          a development as Black Rock would bring.

20          On the flip side, we also recognize that if you  
21          do not have a sustainable water supply, we risk losing  
22          two to three billion dollars annually in agricultural  
23          products from our Valley. The last three droughts  
24          have cost our area nearly \$1 billion a year. That's  
25          \$3 billion over three years of drought. That is

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1 almost the total cost of this project of 4.5 billion.

2 It's a safe bet that another drought is coming.  
3 The only question is when. And if you take global  
4 warming to heart, I'd say it will probably be sooner  
5 rather than later. Black Rock is the only alternative  
6 that makes sense, and it is a requirement for our  
7 future well-being. Thank you very much.

8 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.  
9 Next speaker, Rhonda Rose.

10

11 RHONDA ROSE

12 Thank you. My name is Rhonda Rose, R-O-S-E.  
13 I'm a Yakima realtor.

14 And I just wanted to say that I am in support of  
15 this project. The majority of my clients truly are  
16 moving here from out of the area.

17 I would like to take this moment just to give you  
18 a brief excerpt from the preamble of our Codes of  
19 Ethics. And this, by the way, was written over 100  
20 years ago.

21 It says: Under all is the land. Upon its wise  
22 utilization depend the survival and growth of free  
23 institutions and of our civilization. Realtors should  
24 recognize that the interests of the nation and its  
25 citizens require the highest and best use of the land

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1 and the widest distribution. They require the  
2 creation of adequate housing, the building of  
3 functioning cities, the development of productive  
4 industries and farms, and the preservation of a  
5 healthful environment.

6 Not only has the Yakima, Tri-City and Kittitas  
7 Associations been in support of this endeavor, but  
8 recently the Washington realtors ponied up with  
9 support with the sizable donation. Our 25,000 members  
10 state wide recognize that we are an agricultural-based  
11 community, and they believe that this is a worthwhile  
12 project that will boost our economic viability, and  
13 the Washington realtors state wide see that there is  
14 the benefit to the Central Washington Basin area.

15 We believe this is a viable solution to our water  
16 storage issue and it would truly enhance the  
17 recreational opportunities for current residents and  
18 for those that are relocating. Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: Thank you.

20 Next speaker, David McFadden.

21

22 DAVID McFADDEN

23 Thank you. My name is Dave McFadden,  
24 M-C-F-A-D-D-E-N. And I am the president of the Yakima  
25 County Development Association, and I'm speaking on

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1           behalf of our organization.

2                   We have been in business for over 20 years trying  
3           to work on strengthening and diversifying the Yakima  
4           Valley economy, and over the years what we have  
5           recognized is that our history, our culture, our  
6           economy, and indeed our future is totally dependent on  
7           water availability and supply.

8                   We have watched the discussions with interest  
9           unfold over the last two decades surrounding this  
10          issue and we are very encouraged by this recent study  
11          completed by Bureau.

12                   At this point, though, it's clear and obvious to  
13          us that Black Rock Reservoir is the most comprehensive  
14          and sustainable solution and option being considered.  
15          I would add to that, and I'd echo what other people  
16          said, you look at some benefits, but we feel that some  
17          of those benefits were not really recognized, like  
18          recreational value or the value of salmon recovery.

19                   And we feel when you really consider, again, how  
20          recreational economies support salmon recovery and  
21          generate other economic activities, that this  
22          reservoir project becomes the most legitimate and cost  
23          effective alternative to address the region's  
24          long-term water requirement.

25                   Our communities and our region need a water

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1 solution now. Little, if any, new storage has been  
2 added within the Yakima Basin over the last 60 years  
3 and the region's diverse demands for water now far  
4 outstrip the supply of water in existing reservoirs.  
5 Favoring a No Action alternative in the Bureau of  
6 Reclamation's study for these reasons would be a  
7 disaster.

8 We have studied water issues in our Basin for  
9 many years, and we must move past the analysis and  
10 talk to invest in new water storage. Conservation of  
11 our water resources will certainly help in part  
12 resolve the region's water sustainability issues, but  
13 it by itself is not the entire solution to our water  
14 supply and management issues.

15 So our organization, New Vision, the Yakima  
16 County Development Association, supports the specific  
17 Black Rock Reservoir option. It's the only one that  
18 meets your goals; it's the only one that provides a  
19 comprehensive long-term water solution that we're  
20 going to depend on for the next few generations.  
21 Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: Thank you.  
23 Next speaker, Doug Palachuk.

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DOUG PALACHUK

Good afternoon. My name is Doug Palachuk, I'm the business representative for the Carpenters here in Yakima, Washington. Last name is P-A-L-A-C-H-U-K.

I'm here because I'm concerned about the future of my own town. I'm concerned about my children, my grandchildren's future. Will they have the opportunities that I have been blessed with. I'm here because I know that if my children, my grandchildren are to have the same opportunities that I have had, we must do more for water and with the reliability water supply.

I believe that Black Rock proposal guarantees my family's future opportunities will be here for them. The cost to build Black Rock should not be a stumbling block, when it comes to our children and grandchildren's future.

We have looked at the problem for many years. We have done nothing about it except spend money to study the problem. I don't know about the rest of you folks, but I am tired of studying a problem. It's time that we do what we know we must do. I think this is our last chance to get help from the government.

I have a couple items that should be mentioned in

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1 the study. One of the studies that the Basin Storage  
2 Alliance did on recreation needs to be included. This  
3 is a \$3.5 billion benefit for our economy.

4 Two, the salmon recovery estimated by the Yakima  
5 Basin Storage Alliance was \$2.6 billion. The  
6 recreation of salmon restoration numbers estimated by  
7 Alliance covers the cost to build Black Rock.

8 Lastly, the EIS must address global warming and  
9 how it impacts the future water needs in the Valley.  
10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

12 Doug was our last speaker. Is there any  
13 additional comments?

14 Okay, we have a gentleman right here.

15

16 WALTER GEORGE

17 My name is Walter George, G-E-O-R-G-E, just  
18 like anybody's first name.

19 I spent 27 years on the South Yakima Conservation  
20 District Board, four years of my life helping write  
21 the Yakima River Plan. I've never known the federal  
22 government to let the irrigator, and I'm a landowner  
23 and an irrigator, get off without a certain percentage  
24 of the cost because we're going to get some benefit  
25 out of this. Everybody else, all the recreation, gets

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1 a free ride. And as taxpayers also, we don't get that  
2 free ride, as a landowner and an irrigator.

3 But my biggest concern is with the safety. I  
4 drilled a well in Cold Creek back in the '60's, and  
5 it's now in grapes out there, and I hit the Vantage  
6 sands down in the first few layers of basalt. They're  
7 also under the Moxee, where this reservoir is going to  
8 be. I asked the Martinez Brothers, and they hit the  
9 same grainy sand.

10 They're also over on Sunnyside side when they  
11 drilled the well on a project there. There's 10 to 20  
12 foot of sand down below these layers of basalt.

13 Now, there was a spring called Barrel Springs  
14 just south of the Silver Dollar Cafe. It used to  
15 flow. Then when they drilled the wells on Vic  
16 Robert's place and over on the Gold Creek, it's all  
17 the same aquifer, it took the pressure off it and it  
18 quit running. And the one at Rattlesnake Springs  
19 almost quit.

20 They're going to build here a 600-foot high dam.  
21 If you just say there's a 550-foot level of water at  
22 that end, that's the high dam, out on the east end.  
23 Not the west end, but the east end. There's over 200  
24 pounds of pressure on that thing.

25 The only reason I mention Barrel Springs is

1 because there was a fissure in the basalt, so our  
2 water can come up, you know. There's no saying that  
3 there isn't some cracks in the basalt under this  
4 reservoir, with over 200 pounds of pressure. If it  
5 gets into Vantage sand, where is it going to come up?

6 I don't blame the Atomic Energy Commission for  
7 being very worried about this project. It has some  
8 real safety problems. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.  
10 Another comment?

11

12

JIM BREEDLOVE

13

14

15

My name is Jim Breedlove. That's  
B-R-E-E-D-L-O-V-E. I've been a resident of Yakima  
since 1970.

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In 1971 we had a hot summer, but we had plenty of  
water, and I looked around and I thought, Why in the  
world don't we store more water around here? It's  
desert without water. It's always been desert without  
water. The benefits to Black Rock are obvious,  
bolstering our irrigation water during drought years.

22

23

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25

If 1994 and 2005 had been back to back, how many  
people would have gone out of business? Many, many,  
many people. And the cost be damned. It doesn't  
matter what it cost. If people go out of business and

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1 leave this Valley, then we have no Valley. It doesn't  
2 matter what it costs. We need water storage.

3 As far as the seepage is concerned, that's  
4 speculation. And it would be terrible if a bad  
5 accident happened, but, if it did, then it did. At  
6 least we have to do something. Do something.

7 Someone said years ago, Don't stand and look at  
8 the project. Do something, even if it is wrong. We  
9 must do something.

10 Black Rock would provide so many benefits to this  
11 Valley. We've talked about the recreation. We've  
12 talked about the real estate projects that are  
13 enumerable. How much money is that worth? No telling  
14 what.

15 And, you know, contradictions fascinate me. One  
16 group of detractors says it's not going to cost too  
17 much. We're not going to get that much money back  
18 from it. It's not going to make money. Another group  
19 of detractors says we can't do this because it's just  
20 a bunch of guys want to build it so they can make  
21 money.

22 So, on one hand, you're not going to make any  
23 money. On the other hand, they say we can't do it  
24 because you're going to make money. So that's kind of  
25 confusing to me.

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1           It seems to me that we're having right now one of  
2           the only real estate booms in the country. We were in  
3           the U.S.A. Today yesterday. Eighteen percent increase  
4           in 2007 in real estate in Yakima, the second highest  
5           market in the United States of America. People are  
6           selling out all over the place, coming to Yakima.  
7           We're a great investment area for real estate.

8           A friend of mine, a retired navel captain in San  
9           Diego, sold his place for 2.5 million. Came to Yakima  
10          and bought a place for 300,000, and he said it's a  
11          better place than what he had in San Diego. He put a  
12          little bit in the bank.

13          A lot of people are going to do that. A lot of  
14          people with coming here from the west side, from all  
15          over. More and more people are coming to town for  
16          recreation. They're called tourists.

17          And many people come here for the sports  
18          advantages. We didn't build the field of dreams, but  
19          we got pretty close out here. And all those places  
20          have a lot of these kids come to town and play ball  
21          every year.

22          Hotels are sprouting up like hop fields. Boy,  
23          I'm just trying to say that we're going to have a lot  
24          more tourists in the future. We're going to need more  
25          water, not just for agriculture. But we are an

1 agriculture-based economy, so that's the main thing.

2 Black Rock is not actually to make money. It's  
3 so that we'll have water when we need it, and in  
4 drought years we really need it. Please. Who doesn't  
5 want to help the Yakima Valley? We all want to help  
6 the Yakima Valley. Black Rock is essential. Thank  
7 you.

8 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.  
9 Another comment?

10

11 CHRIS NASS

12 Hi. I'm Chris Nass with the Yakima  
13 Association of Realtors. That's N-A-S-S.

14 And you might think that I'm going to talk to you  
15 about real estate values, but I'm not. My only  
16 comment about that is, if we have the water and if we  
17 have everything else the Black Rock project promises,  
18 the real estate values will take care of themselves.  
19 That's all I have to say about real estate values.

20 Agriculture, we absolutely need that water for  
21 agriculture. We have to ask ourselves in some cases  
22 with this cost benefit what would it cost if we don't  
23 do this. For 60 years we haven't done anything.

24 If we would have built Black Rock 20 years ago,  
25 it would have been cheaper to do it. Instead, we're

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1 putting man on the moon, and now we're paying almost  
2 as much for toilet seats on the Space Shuttle as Black  
3 Rock costs, and I'm very disappointed by that. I'm  
4 not against the space program, but I think that we  
5 need to do something.

6 If our crops die, if the livestock dies, there's  
7 going to be a lot of people out of work, the federal  
8 government is going to be in a position where they're  
9 going to have to hand them a Welfare check. Instead  
10 of having some cost benefit, there will be no benefit.  
11 It will just be a drain on the society. Our local  
12 economy will go bust.

13 You know, you could build a half a dozen Wymers.  
14 What's it going to cost to build them, compared to the  
15 cost to build Black Rock? I'm definitely for this  
16 project. And I think, if the Bureau takes the action  
17 of doing nothing, it's negligent.

18 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: Thank you.

19 Any additional comments?

20

21 JOHN HODKINSON

22 Good afternoon. My name is John Hodkinson.  
23 I'm with Almon Commercial Real Estate. Also a member  
24 of the Real Estate Association. I'm on the board.

25 There's been some comments like in the paper that

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1           have mentioned that people coming to this area and  
2           doing things around Black Rock is kind of a pipe  
3           dream. I have a signed purchase and sale for 460  
4           acres to put in a resort type development that would  
5           have brought people from all over the world to this  
6           Valley. I can't do the development because I can't  
7           get water.

8                     The bottom line to that story was, I've been  
9           working on this for probably ten months, the  
10          Department of Ecology, etcetera, etcetera, looking for  
11          a way to bring water to this property. And I'm told,  
12          even though I could find water rights to purchase,  
13          they would not allow another well to be drilled to  
14          pull that water out because of the aquifer level going  
15          down. So here's a development that's not going to  
16          happen that would have brought a lot of money to this  
17          Valley in economic development.

18                    I also in my past life was a rancher and totally  
19          depended on water, so I too am 150 percent in support  
20          of Black Rock. Not only for the economic development,  
21          for the enhancement of fish, for the water storage  
22          that that will bring to our Valley to ensure that our  
23          agricultural industry survives and does well. Thank  
24          you.

25                             HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

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Any more comments?

KEITH POSS

My name is Keith Poss, P-O-S-S. I farmed out in the Moxee area for about 40 years, plus years, lived out there all my life, and I experienced drought.

In '77 the Roza shut their water off around the first part of August. We lost everything. It took us a long time to recover. After that, every third, fourth year we had short water. We still had to pay for it. We get no reimbursement. The next year we had to pay the same amount of money to have our water turned back on.

I don't know whether Black Rock is feasible or not. I haven't found any Bureau project that has ever been cost efficient, but it has benefited the people, a lot of people. We need water in the Valley, and there's no question about it.

I was on the Conservation Board, North Yakima Conservation Board, for about 40 some years, and finally retired here last year, but we've been studying water.

We've done a lot of work with farmers in conservation. We've helped them with sprinkler

1 systems, drip systems, ponds, reusing water, etcetera,  
2 etcetera, but we're running short.

3 I can't tell you what the date was, but when  
4 Judge Bolt ordered that "X" amount of water must go  
5 down the river in the wintertime for the fish, that  
6 drew down our reservoir. It didn't make any  
7 difference whether there was snow in the mountains or  
8 no snow. That water still had to come out of the  
9 reservoir to go down the river to save the fish.

10 I'm not saying we shouldn't save the fish, but I  
11 often question who's more valuable, the fish or the  
12 humans. Fish don't earn any money for me or anyone  
13 else. They're good to eat, fun to catch, but people  
14 and the industry needs water.

15 And if we're going to keep drawing in this  
16 Valley, we've got to have some type of reservoir or  
17 more reservoirs, small reservoirs or the Black Rock.  
18 And I'm all for whatever project, but let's get off  
19 the stick and do something.

20 We have a legislator that was on the city  
21 council. He was one of our state legislators. He  
22 came to our meeting one time and we talked this issue  
23 over. This was back in '77. We were looking for more  
24 water, trying to figure out how to get more water.

25 And he says, You know -- And it's been a few years

1 ago. And he said at that time, There's been studies  
2 and studies and studies. We could fill a room full of  
3 studies, but not one shovel full of dirt has been  
4 turned over to create more water. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: Thank you.

6 Additional comments?

7 (NO RESPONSE)

8 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: This  
9 hearing will be open until four. At this time, we  
10 will call a recess to this hearing, at 3:30.

11 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT  
12 3:32 P.M. UNTIL 3:57 P.M.)

13 HEARING OFFICER CANDY MCKINLEY: We'd like  
14 to reopen the hearing and see if there's any  
15 additional comments.

16 (NO RESPONSE).

17 HEARING OFFICER CINDY MCKINLEY: At this  
18 time, then, we'll close the hearing.

19 MR. ARTHUR MILLER: I just have an informal  
20 comment.

21 I would like to thank and congratulate all of the  
22 Bureau staff that's come in here and helped us do  
23 this, and I appreciate their efforts and their  
24 objectivity in doing this whole study. I think that  
25 they have been extremely objective and done a fine

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1 job, and I'd just like that to be noted.

2 HEARING OFFICER CINDY McKINLEY: Thank you.

3 Okay. At this time, 4:00, we'll close this

4 hearing. Thank you.

5

6 (HEARING ADJOURNED AT

7 4:00 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 STEVEN E. GEORGE

5 ROCKEY MARSHALL

6 ALAN FINCH

7 DAVID McFADDEN

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PUBLIC MEETING

Yakima Basin Storage Study  
Draft Planning Report/EIS

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Yakima Convention Center  
10 North Eighth Street  
Suites 300 and 400  
Yakima, Washington, 98901

Dave Kaumheimer  
Hearing Officer



1 ORAL COMMENTS WERE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

2

3	NAME	PAGES
4	JOHN COOPER	5 - 8
5	JIM SEWELL	8 - 9
6	TOM CARPENTER	9 - 13
7	ARNOLD MARTIN	13 - 15
8	ROD MITCHELL	15 - 16
9	WENDY AGUILAR	16 - 17
10	KEN NELSON	17 - 19
11	DONALD LEIPPERT	20 - 22
12	JOHN SMETS	23 - 25
13	RICK GLENN	25 - 29
14	SUE CARLSON	29 - 31
15	JIM AMUNDSON	31 - 32

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1 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Well, I'd  
2 like to welcome you this evening. This is our public  
3 hearing on the Draft Planning Report and the Draft  
4 Environmental Impact Statement for the Yakima River  
5 Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study, and the study  
6 was done under the National Environmental Policy Act,  
7 or NEPA, as well as under the State Environmental  
8 Policy Act, or SEPA.

9 So tonight's hearing is held under the auspices  
10 of both NEPA and SEPA. We have Derek Sandison here  
11 from the Department of Ecology. Ecology was the lead  
12 agency for the State in preparing this EIS.

13 Our purpose tonight is to get your comments on  
14 the Draft EIS, so we'll be trying to get comments from  
15 you. You can provide oral comments, which is what the  
16 microphones are for. We also have some comment forms  
17 in the back of the room. If you prefer not to give a  
18 verbal comment, you can give us a written comment.  
19 There's a box in the back to stick those written  
20 comments in.

21 This is only part of the comment process. You  
22 can also provide us written comments until March 31st.  
23 That's the close of the comment period. You can  
24 provide those comments by fax, by e-mail or by regular  
25 mail. And all the information you need to get us your

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1 comment is printed on the bottom of the comment form  
2 in the back of the room.

3 We'll be keeping a transcript of the hearing  
4 tonight. That's why we have a court reporter here.  
5 And she'll let us know if she can't understand or  
6 can't hear what you're saying. So try and speak  
7 slowly and clearly, so she can get a record of  
8 everything that you're saying.

9 If you're speaking from a written set of  
10 comments, we'd appreciate it if you would drop off a  
11 copy of those comments with the court reporter so we  
12 can get an accurate record of what you told us  
13 tonight.

14 We're going to take the folks in the order in  
15 which they signed in on the sign-in form that was out  
16 in the lobby, at the end we'll ask if there's anyone  
17 else who wishes to speak. So if you didn't get signed  
18 in on the form, you will still have an opportunity.

19 I'm going to call your name, again, in that  
20 order. I want you to come up to the microphone, so  
21 everyone can hear you and we get an accurate record.  
22 I'm going to ask you to repeat your name, spell your  
23 last name, so, again, we get a good record, and give  
24 us your address. I know the sign-in form asks for  
25 your address. Some folks gave it to us, some folks

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1 didn't. We need you to give us your address when you  
2 prepare your comments or when you give us your  
3 comments.

4 If you're representing a group tonight, we'd like  
5 you to indicate who it is you represent. If you're  
6 representing yourself, you don't need to bother.

7 You'll have four minutes to present oral  
8 comments. My assistant will wave a little yellow card  
9 when you get to three minutes, so you'll know you're  
10 coming to the end of your comment period and you can  
11 summarize your comments or close them out.

12 So with that, we'll start the public hearing and  
13 we'll take the first individual.

14 John Cooper.

15

16 JOHN COOPER

17 Good evening. My name is John Cooper, and  
18 I'm president and CEO of the Yakima Valley Visitor and  
19 Convention Bureau. I will give you my notes, but  
20 there's a lot of chicken scratches on them, as you can  
21 imagine. Again, my last name is Cooper, C-O-O-P-E-R.

22 Outside this building as you came in there was a  
23 number -- you will see that all along and up and down  
24 the boulevard and throughout the valley a number of  
25 colorful banners that welcome you to Washington Wine

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1 Country.

2 This is a locally-based initiative to build  
3 economic opportunities from Yakima Valley all the way  
4 to Walla Walla through tourism and community  
5 development. And I believe this project and others  
6 have helped to bring in new development, like Zillah  
7 Lakes residencies, the various projects you see  
8 happening down at Red Mountain, all the merging wine  
9 industry, as well as other developments that have  
10 helped to build our communities.

11 One of the overall goals of Washington Wine  
12 Country is to provide new opportunities so that we can  
13 keep our best and brightest of our kids, as well as  
14 our citizens, living productive lives here in the  
15 valley.

16 Recently the Washington Wine Commission released  
17 a report just earlier this month about the state of  
18 the wine industry and what it means for the economy,  
19 not only of Washington State, but also the Nation.  
20 I'm just going to read a few things from their study,  
21 from their release.

22 Right now the Washington wine, grape and grape  
23 juice industries contribute three billion annually to  
24 our state's economy and almost five billion annually  
25 to the U.S. economy. The study also wanted to show

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1           that employment-wise, over 19,000 jobs are created  
2           across this state, with a payroll of close to \$580  
3           million, all coming from Washington wine and wine  
4           grapes.

5           In addition, on a national level, the number of  
6           jobs from our local industries are about 29,000 across  
7           the country, and \$850 million.

8           The industry also creates a lot of taxes for both  
9           the state as well as on a national level. The wine,  
10          grape and grape juice sectors paid over \$145 million  
11          in state and local taxes in our state.

12          Likewise, the sector I'm most interested in is  
13          for tourism. Wine-related tourism expenditures has  
14          just exploded since 1990, reaching \$237 million for  
15          2006. That's a 165 percent increase each year.

16          And the vast majority of all this growth that  
17          we've seen has happened here in eastern Washington.  
18          The wine industry is a very crucial part of our  
19          economy, our life-style and where we're headed into  
20          the future, which brings me to a few of my key points  
21          in regards to all this.

22          Tourism in Yakima County alone is now a \$307  
23          million industry. We've got 3,300 people who are  
24          employed and dependent upon this industry, and water  
25          of course plays a very vital role, whether it's to

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1 irrigate the vineyards and other crops that simplify  
2 our products, providing fishing opportunities, habitat  
3 enrichment, rafting, skiing or just supplying the  
4 needs for our guests.

5 So to close, I really want to let you know that  
6 the Yakima Valley Visitor and Convention Bureau, the  
7 main tourism industry for this county, has gone on  
8 record supporting the Black Rock Project.

9 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: John?

10 MR. JOHN COOPER: Yes.

11 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could we  
12 get your address?

13 MR. JOHN COOPER: Oh, I'm sorry. My address  
14 is 322 South 76th Avenue, Yakima, 98908.

15 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thanks.

16 Jim Sewell.

17

18 JIM SEWELL

19 Good evening. Jim Sewell. I'm a  
20 commissioner with the Port of Grandview. My address  
21 is 906 King Street, Grandview, 98930.

22 In reviewing the various options, it's clear that  
23 not taking any action is not an option. If we're not  
24 able to take the steps now to provide water that the  
25 valley will require, it will limit our growth and our

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1 potential into the future.

2 When we look at the agricultural industry, the  
3 growing wine industry, recreation and tourism, they  
4 all depend upon water. If we do not have those water  
5 resources, these new industries will dry up and then  
6 we'll die.

7 The Port of Grandview supports the Black Rock  
8 proposal as the most viable option. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.  
10 Tom Carpenter.

11

12 TOM CARPENTER

13 I live at 400-B Carpenter Road, Granger,  
14 Washington, is the attitude -- or the address, excuse  
15 me. Probably an attitude, too.

16 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could you  
17 spell your name for the court reporter, please.

18 MR. TOM CARPENTER: C-A-R-P-E-N-T-E-R.

19 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

20 MR. TOM CARPENTER: I'm Tom Carpenter, a  
21 lifelong resident of the Yakima Valley, and I have  
22 five sons, 19 grandchildren and three  
23 great-grandchildren. All of our family lives, plays  
24 and works here in the Yakima River Basin. This family  
25 has an inherited interest in the Yakima Valley,

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1 meaning that my great-grandfather settled here in the  
2 Yakima area, homesteading in the Ahtanum area west of  
3 Union Gap and South of Yakima during the year 1868.

4 Charles Carpenter quickly noted what happened  
5 when that water was married to land. This desert  
6 quickly responded with great production of about any  
7 crop that a farmer planted here. These early pioneers  
8 set the stage for the prosperity for the whole Yakima  
9 River Basin soon after they understood the nature of  
10 the value of water spread over land.

11 The Chief Kamiakin of the Yakama Tribe is noted  
12 as the first irrigator of the Yakima Valley to bring  
13 water out on his land up in the Ahtanum area where he  
14 grew abundant food.

15 So these early irrigators soon found out they  
16 needed storage systems to sustain the available water  
17 required over the entire time of each irrigation  
18 system to provide water on land that they knew  
19 produced abundant crops.

20 Our forefathers had the vision right. They took  
21 much risk to do something to create the economy that  
22 drives the livings of the grandchildren, their  
23 grandchildren and others who came here to enjoy the  
24 prosperity. Look around you today. The fact is they  
25 had it figured out right from the start and did

1 something to sustain the future without the beauty of  
2 a feasibility study, I might add. They just got it  
3 done.

4 They did miss badly on fish, though. They did  
5 not think then of building things that were friendly  
6 to fish as should have been the case. But in today's  
7 world we are attempting to fix that. We've got to do  
8 it with what some call a holistic attitude towards  
9 correcting fish issues that must be addressed in  
10 today's world.

11 Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act,  
12 including many new federal, state and local mandates,  
13 require us to take care of fixing the fish issues. In  
14 fact, society has spent billions of dollars for all  
15 kinds of schemes and ideas evident today that are  
16 about fixing this problem.

17 There is the issue of experts with ideas that  
18 need to be directed toward solution, not a whole  
19 system bent on funding various interests solely for  
20 the funding of piecemeal projects that may have some  
21 meaning in the total picture, but in fact it will take  
22 a big fix to handle the needs of the Yakima River  
23 Basin for the future.

24 Learning about tribal culture needs for fishing  
25 which the Yakama people deem a sacred right that

1 merits fixing has been a hard lesson for many of us as  
2 farmers to learn, but I'm one of those fellows that  
3 made the commitment to the Tribal Council that farmers  
4 on the Roza and Sunnyside Irrigation Districts would  
5 clean up runoff causing damage to salmon coming up the  
6 river.

7 What does that thing mean?

8 MR. JOHN EVANS: You've got a minute.

9 MR. TOM CARPENTER: Most farmers today  
10 understand we must take care of fish in the next big  
11 fix required to make the Yakima the model salmon  
12 production river, like Jack Stanford, the noted  
13 biologist, said.

14 I'd like to make a few observations about the  
15 feasibility study. The enhancement bill suggested  
16 several fixes that indeed must be addressed. My  
17 question to the Bureau of Reclamation is that in that  
18 fix water storage was the main agreement, or was that  
19 a promise you're going to address ever?

20 Over many years in the Yakima Basin we've looked  
21 at various sites to use the need for storage. We've  
22 all put all of them on a dusty shelf. It does not  
23 make sense to me that we're willing to base our  
24 decision on water for the recovery of our salmon and  
25 steelhead in this basin solely on the value of fish

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1 caught.

2 How do can we see a billion dollars a year being  
3 spent on fish recovery in this region with very little  
4 evidence of salmon recovery evidenced in the real --  
5 that takes care of the fish the way they need to be  
6 taken care of.

7 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Tom, we're  
8 out of time. Thank you for your time.

9 MR. TOM CARPENTER: Shoot, I ain't even  
10 started it, sir. You will put it all in the written  
11 testimony, though, won't you?

12 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: If you  
13 provide us written comments, we'll put them in.

14 MR. TOM CARPENTER: There you go.

15 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Arnold  
16 Martin.

17

18 ARNOLD MARTIN

19 Arnold Martin, A-R-N-O-L-D, M-A-R-T-I-N.  
20 I'm representing myself and also the Sunnyside Port  
21 District from Sunnyside.

22 The Sunnyside Port District has supported the  
23 Yakima Basin Storage Alliance and its efforts working  
24 towards Black Rock Reservoir. The potential of  
25 economic gain and the sustainability of economic

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1 growth with the Black Rock Reservoir is huge.

2 Now, it is totally the way its positioned within  
3 the Sunnyside Port District. With that change in back  
4 for myself, I remember the 1977 drought, which began  
5 the year which really set my father back, started the  
6 end of his farming, it really set me back, but I did  
7 survive.

8 More recently, the 1997, 2001, 2005 droughts, I'm  
9 on the Roza Irrigation District, I'm still farming,  
10 but my farm is only half what it used to be. And my  
11 son that was farming with me isn't anymore. So it's  
12 very personal there.

13 The Black Rock Reservoir will provide needed  
14 water for fish, cities and agricultural needs. The  
15 Yakima River system is one of the best systems for  
16 salmon recovery. We are losing huge amounts of money  
17 on our farms whenever we have a drought. This is  
18 money lost to farmers and to the economy as a whole,  
19 the Yakima River system and the Basin.

20 We have been studying this problem ever since I  
21 was a child on my dad's farm. Droughts happen, and  
22 it's time we have a solution. And this is a solution.  
23 And to me it's time for everybody to get together and  
24 solve this problem so we can move on with our lives,  
25 my life, the life of the people here, and the whole

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1 Yakima River system.

2 It is just way past time to solve this problem,  
3 and Black Rock Reservoir does it, and it satisfies the  
4 three criteria set forth by Congress, and it's time to  
5 do the job. Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could we  
7 get your address?

8 MR. ARNOLD MARTIN: 1710 SLI Road, Sunnyside  
9 Washington, 98944.

10 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Rod  
11 Mitchell.

12

13 ROD MITCHELL

14 My name is Rod Mitchell, M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L.  
15 Address is 2205 Butterfield Road, No. 63, Yakima,  
16 98901.

17 I'm here as the vice-president of the Carpenters  
18 Local 77 here in Yakima. I'm also here as a lifetime  
19 resident of the Yakima Valley, concerned citizen,  
20 somebody that really believes that this Black Rock  
21 Project will enhance the economy.

22 We've spent thousand and thousands of dollars  
23 here in Yakima to try to pick up the downtown area.  
24 We spent thousands of dollars on the feasibility  
25 studies that we've done on the Black Rock, which

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1 started in 2003. Probably prior to that.

2 The economic value to the Yakima County is a  
3 no-brainer. I mean, I'm not a rocket scientist or a  
4 big shot that knows a lot about science and stuff like  
5 that, but I do know that the things that we're trying  
6 to do in the valley and the Hanford area with the  
7 vitrification plant and everybody last month or so  
8 come up, now they're worried about contamination and  
9 water.

10 If they get the vitrification plant done on time,  
11 I don't think there will be anything down there to  
12 worry about them contaminating because it should be  
13 all done and taken care of and Black Rock will come  
14 right after that. So I think it's a no-brainer and I  
15 want to stand to be commented on Black Rock, that I'm  
16 a go for it.

17 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Wendy  
18 Aguilar.

19  
20 WENDY AGUILAR

21 Hello. I'm Wendy Aguilar, A-G-U-I-L-A-R.  
22 My address is 406 Westover Drive, Yakima, 98908.

23 And I'm here to speak for Black Rock as a mom, as  
24 a citizen. I actually moved to Yakima about 15 years  
25 ago, and I love it here and I've grown with it, and my

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1 children have continued to grow with it. I believe  
2 that Black Rock is a solution to our future. If we  
3 don't have water, the beautiful bounty that we see now  
4 will be no more eventually.

5 So I just want to say that we have an opportunity  
6 to sustain life in Yakima for my children, for my  
7 grandchildren hopefully. And if we do nothing, we  
8 potentially will fail, and we will fail our children  
9 in the future for Yakima. That's all I have to say.  
10 Thanks.

11 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.  
12 Ken Nelson.

13

14

KEN NELSON

15 Ken Nelson, 211 Sand Hill, Grandview, 98930.

16 I'm representing the realtor organization.  
17 Actually three of them. The Lower Yakima Valley,  
18 Yakima Valley Tri-Cities Association, and the  
19 Washington Association of Realtors.

20 We just ponied up \$50,000 for this. Or actually  
21 55. 50,000 came from the Washington Association of  
22 Realtors. And most of those folks on this committee  
23 were from western Washington that saw the viable need  
24 that is for this area.

25 We couldn't understand why in this study, when a

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1 study is supposed to encumber all things, why the  
2 economic viability part of it wasn't in the study,  
3 period, or why the University of Washington fish study  
4 was not put in there either. It made no sense to us.  
5 The economic viability of this area can only come  
6 through having water.

7 This is farm country, farmland, and we have to  
8 wait on the snow production, which we haven't had in  
9 three years of the drought. The drought cost us, in  
10 the 2001 drought, cost us 250 million, roughly, in  
11 crops. Not only that, there was a lot of orchards and  
12 things taken out. Because once you stress an orchard  
13 out, it takes quite a few years for it to recover.

14 But, overall, it was about 750 million because of  
15 the crops that would have produced sales and temporary  
16 jobs, about 4,900 people. Out of the three droughts,  
17 that's three-quarters of a billion dollars. So the  
18 economic viability of this is very important to this  
19 economy and this area.

20 This project will create about 6,000 jobs for  
21 about ten years. Not only that, but the goods and  
22 services and the things that it will produce here. We  
23 have a hard enough time with regulations throughout  
24 this state, and we have the regulations here.

25 A professor out of the Washington State

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1 university just came up because some of the just  
2 single three-bedroom, two-bath homes on the coast  
3 alone was over \$200,000 because of regulations and  
4 things. We have people wanting to come to this area  
5 to live, and a home is where a job goes at night. So  
6 the economic viability in this package is very  
7 important and should have been part of it. I'm  
8 curious to know why it was left out.

9 And taking No-Action, after I read through your  
10 report -- It took me about two or three times to go  
11 through the entire thing, but what it looked like was  
12 taking No Action. No Action is not, I don't think,  
13 the Bureau of Reclamation's job. They need to come up  
14 with something that is more positive.

15 No Action is what's caused some of our problems  
16 today, is because over the years we have taken No  
17 Action. It's not what should be done here. And I  
18 challenge you guys to come up with putting in these  
19 economic viability packages in here and look at the  
20 overall picture and not just part, a very minute,  
21 small part of this.

22 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

23 Donald Leippert.

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DONALD LEIPPERT

Don, and the last name is spelled  
L-E-I-P-P-E-R-T. 801 Terrace Heights Drive Yakima  
98901. I'm an orchardist here in the Yakima Valley,  
and I just have a few points. It won't take very  
long.

If you look at most countries in the world, one  
limiting factor in agricultural production is water.  
I don't know how extensive you guys have traveled, but  
I just recently went to Africa, and that is the one  
limiting factor. And I think that's going to become  
more and more pronounced as the world population  
increases.

More people are going to require more food and  
more people are going to put demands on water  
resources and land resources, and there's going to be  
less irrigated farmland available.

And I think the value of irrigated farmland  
worldwide and in the United States and in the state of  
Washington and this side of the mountains, that the  
value is going to increase immensely over the next  
five, 10, 15 years.

As an orchardist, when I develop a new orchard,  
it costs me about \$20,000 an acre. If I put in 100  
acres over the next couple years, that's a \$2 million

1 investment. I'm not going to do it if I have a  
2 questionable source of water.

3 I think we have tremendous opportunity in west  
4 side tourism. As you know, the population of the  
5 state is rapidly increasing on the west side. They  
6 are becoming very, very crowded, and a lot of those  
7 people enjoy having a place to go on weekends. I  
8 think we have a tremendous opportunity for tourism. I  
9 certainly don't think that that should be overlooked.

10 Having this reservoir will also increase or help  
11 replenish the existing groundwater sources that we  
12 have in the Yakima Basin. As we all know, those water  
13 levels are receding, and this would be a good way to  
14 help replenish those sources. More and more people  
15 are moving to the countryside; more and more people  
16 are putting down domestic wells. Having that water  
17 replenished, that groundwater, I think is a tremendous  
18 asset.

19 And we are not going to be able -- There's lots  
20 of conservation practices being implemented. I do not  
21 believe that we're going to conserve our way out of  
22 this problem. We need additional storage, and I just  
23 can't overemphasize that.

24 We're talking about our future. We're maybe not  
25 in a huge crunch right now, but I'll guarantee you --

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1 I personally believe that in five or ten years we're  
2 going to be in a huge problem. If you just look at  
3 what's happening with the world economy right now and  
4 the additional demand on crops for ethanol, and we  
5 have the shortest supply of wheat that we've ever  
6 experienced in recorded time, there's about six and a  
7 half months' supply in the world right now. That's  
8 why all of our crop prices are just through the roof.  
9 It doesn't make any difference.

10 I heard an old-timer a few days ago tell me that  
11 it doesn't make any difference. If it comes from the  
12 ground, it's worth a lot of money right now. It  
13 doesn't make any difference if it's a precious metal  
14 or it's if it's oil or if it's agriculture or crops,  
15 they're all going to be rapidly increased in value in  
16 the next few years.

17 Right now, that Columbia River is our future  
18 flowing to the ocean. I think we need to take  
19 advantage of it. It's wasted if it goes to the ocean.  
20 If we store that water and make it available for  
21 irrigated crops, we're going to recycle it. Don't let  
22 our future go to the ocean, folks. Have an open mind.

23 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Is there  
24 anyone else who would like to make an oral comment at  
25 this time?

1 PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE: (Indicating).

2 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Come on  
3 forward. Again, we'll need your name and address,  
4 since we don't have it.

5

6 JOHN SMETS

7 Yes. Good evening, everybody. I just  
8 happened to be in town.

9 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could we  
10 get your name and address for the record.

11 MR. JOHN SMETS: You have it.

12 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Pardon?

13 MR. JOHN SMETS: You have it. Oh, it was  
14 out in front. Okay. It's right there. It's the last  
15 one on the list. John Smets, S-M-E-T-S. Check?

16 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Yes.

17 MR. JOHN SMETS: Okay. I am up at Wymer,  
18 where specifically is those cliffs, the Wymer cliffs  
19 at milepost 14. And I built the road that opened  
20 the -- by the iron gate that my two sons built, and  
21 it's at the top of the grade. The bottom of the grade  
22 is where the old foot bridge was. And that came down  
23 after all the vandalism of the '50's and '60's, and so  
24 on.

25 But we've been there since 1946 and '45. It was

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1           bought from one of the railroad members of the  
2           Northern Pacific. And as you probably suspect and  
3           people in this room probably suspect, it's a  
4           fascinating place. When you get up on top, you'll  
5           recognize the top by that platform that I built a long  
6           time ago so I could look right straight down on --  
7           There's an island down there that people like to fish  
8           on. And it's right on the edge of the cliff, about  
9           five feet back, as I measured it by the length of a  
10          rake handle. But that stood all that time.

11                 And I built another one on the opposite side.  
12          And the next time I came up, about a couple of weeks  
13          after I finished it, it was missing. And I went up on  
14          top and tragedy had struck. And I was looking for the  
15          culprit, and I believe it was the wind that came up  
16          the face of that cliff on the highway side and tipped  
17          it right off on its back. Completely destroyed it.  
18          So I had a cleanup job to do. But that was the end of  
19          that platform.

20                 So what I can add to this probably is that one of  
21          the few unique things that I recognize in the canyon  
22          is I've been through that canyon every foot of the  
23          way. The first time, I ran in that first Yakima  
24          marathon. Well, 127 marathons later, I walked it.

25          The fascinating thing was I walked it faster than I

1           could run it. Six hours compared to like three and a  
2           half hours.

3                       So, now, how many minutes do I have?

4                               MR. JOHN EVANS: You one minute left.

5                               MR. JOHN SMETS: One left? One left, okay.

6                               I'm familiar with every mile in the canyon. I've  
7           memorized and took pictures of the mileposts, so I'm  
8           familiar with it. I've adopted the highway three or  
9           four miles not only in the canyon where the Eatons'  
10          place is, but also they awarded me on the interstate.

11                              Now, that's basically on the ground. If you need  
12          any references as in what was the history since 1949  
13          or '50, I'd be a good source. Thank you very much.

14                              HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.

15                              Is there anyone else who wishes to make an oral  
16          comment at this time?

17                              Come forward. We'll need your name and your  
18          address.

19

20                                       RICK GLENN

21                              My name is Rick Glenn. My address is 623  
22          North 53rd Avenue, Yakima, Washington, 98908.

23                              I am a lifelong resident of the Yakima Valley.  
24          My father homesteaded on the Roza Irrigation District  
25          in the early 1950's. He was given 80 acres of land

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1 with the stipulation that he could build his home on  
2 this property within five years.

3 The Roza irrigation project brought water to  
4 thousands of acres of desert. I was one of hundreds  
5 of volunteers that spent time digging ash by hand out  
6 of the Tieton Canal so that water service could be  
7 would restored after the eruption of the Mount St.  
8 Helens.

9 I seen Rimrock Lake when it was reduced to a  
10 small stream of water running through the center of  
11 the lake bed. I remember the efforts to obtain more  
12 storage after those droughts in the 1970's. The need  
13 for more water storage was clear to everyone who  
14 understood the situation, but it seemed impossible to  
15 make our voices heard. The Yakima Valley was  
16 transforming from a barren desert to a Central  
17 Washington oasis. The value of land increased  
18 dramatically as farmers discovered that hops, apples,  
19 pears and grapes would grow just as well as corn and  
20 wheat. The possibility seemed endless.

21 Today I'm involved with commercial lending in the  
22 Yakima Valley. I understand more than ever the  
23 importance of water to the Yakima Valley. The access  
24 to a reliable supply of water is one of the first  
25 questions I ask when it's time to open an agricultural

1 line of credit.

2 If you farm on the 50 percent of irrigated land  
3 with junior water rights, then the snowpack in the  
4 mountains is suddenly of interest to your banker. If  
5 your farm has a well, then the capacity of that well  
6 is of great interest. If you don't have the right  
7 answers to those water questions, then the bank isn't  
8 going to lend you any money.

9 I would like to thank the Bureau of Reclamation  
10 and the Department of Ecology for preparing this  
11 report. I thought I understood how important it was  
12 to have more water storage. But after reading this  
13 document, as well as the Department of Ecology and the  
14 Bureau of Reclamation websites, I am convinced that  
15 the need for more water storage is absolutely  
16 critical. I will list some of the causes for my  
17 concern.

18 No. 1, The Yakima became has the capacity to  
19 store one-third of one year's water use. We are  
20 wagering a multi-billion dollar economy on how quickly  
21 a snowflake melts. The Colorado River Basin, which is  
22 also recharged from mountain snowpack, has a storage  
23 capacity equal to about six years of usage. They  
24 recently ran out of water after droughts in five of  
25 the last seven years.

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1 I looked in the National Geographic. The Las  
2 Vegas water project manager prior to 2000 projected  
3 that their water rights from the Colorado River would  
4 sustain them for the one next 50 years, even with  
5 above average population growth. Today that same  
6 manager is finishing plans to purchase groundwater  
7 rights and build a 250-mile pipeline to transport  
8 additional water to Las Vegas because Colorado is not  
9 meeting their needs.

10 Drought is a big issue, and it's something  
11 that -- How much more time do I have?

12 MR. JOHN EVANS: 45 seconds.

13 MR. RICK GLENN: Well, I'll have to skip the  
14 rest.

15 The cost-benefit ratio is really the big issue  
16 that needs to be considered a little bit more. I'll  
17 have to put that in writing because of lack of time.

18 Black Rock Reservoir is the only solution that  
19 will provide a more reliable water supply in the  
20 Yakima Basin. This conclusion is based on 30 years of  
21 study, 35 different proposals, the findings of this  
22 five-year study, and recognition of the political  
23 climate in today's society. There is no other choice  
24 that meets the listed criteria. There isn't a cheaper  
25 alternative; there isn't an adequate alternative.

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1           The Yakima Basin will have to downsize its water  
2 needs to match whatever water is available. If we do  
3 not build Black Rock, we are saying that the water  
4 issue is unsolvable. The drought that is promised by  
5 the Department of Ecology and hinted at by Colorado --

6           HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER:

7 Rick, I think we're finished.

8           MR. RICK GLENN: All right.

9           HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Could you  
10 provide a copy of that to the court reporter?

11          MR. RICK GLENN: I could.

12          HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: That would  
13 be great. Okay.

14          MR. RICK GLENN: Thanks.

15          HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Anyone  
16 else who wishes to speak?

17           Come on up. Again, we have to make sure we get  
18 your name and address.

19

20                                   SUE CARLSON

21           Sue Carlson, 13207 Church Road, Yakima,  
22 Washington.

23           I'm nervous. I don't like this, but I felt I had  
24 to. I've been listening to different meetings on  
25 outskirts for quite a while, and this is the only one

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1 I have chosen to talk.

2 I'm an import from the 1960's. My family got  
3 here from the Firing Center and my father decided to  
4 stay with his four kids because, one, the sun; two,  
5 Yakima has four different seasons; and three, the  
6 water had fish. He was a fisherman and a sportsman.  
7 He's still here. There's about 40 of us here now. We  
8 have been here ever since.

9 And I have traveled to France, Germany,  
10 Louisiana, and I was born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, so  
11 I've been around. The food that our farmers gross  
12 here does not just stay in this valley. It will goes  
13 all over the state and it goes to other countries in  
14 the world.

15 Our water storage, this is just a beginning. If  
16 we don't approve Black Rock, what are we going to  
17 approve later on? We should be looking past Black  
18 Rock. Our farmers are going to need water past Black  
19 Rock into the future. For my grandson, not for me.  
20 My grandson and his kids.

21 You can feel the emotion, sorry. Our farmers  
22 need the water. Guess what? If we don't have the  
23 water there's going to be fewer farmers, fewer farms,  
24 and that means people are going to be paying a lot  
25 more for food. Not just here.

1 Wymer is too small. So if this isn't the  
2 solution, somebody better come up with a better one.  
3 I can't do it. And these people in this room can't do  
4 it alone. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Thank you.  
6 Anyone else who would like to make an oral  
7 comment tonight?

8 (NO RESPONSE).

9 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Well, I  
10 want to thank you for coming. And with that, we'll  
11 recess this hearing at this point.

12 (A RECESS WAS HAD AT  
13 7:40 P.M. UNTIL 8:20 P.M.)

14 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Folks,  
15 we're now going to reopen the hearing, and I'm going  
16 to take additional oral comments.

17 If you would like to go ahead and supply your  
18 name and address for the court reporter.

19 The hearing is now open again.

20

21 JIM AMUNDSON

22 My name is Jim Amundson, A-M-U-N-D-S-O-N.

23 I'm a longtime resident of the Yakima Valley.

24 I just wanted to -- When I've gone over all  
25 the -- Oh, do you need my address too? It's 702 North

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1 44th Avenue, Yakima, Washington, 98908.

2 I read over the cost estimates of the returns.  
3 Over the hundred-year return, it was like 16 cents on  
4 the dollar. But I've been here through quite a few  
5 short water years, when it was nip and tuck whether  
6 they saved their crops and stuff. And I wanted to  
7 know if you figured in like if they lost 20,000 acres  
8 of orchard in one year. That could happen if they had  
9 no water at all. And I wanted to know if you figured  
10 that into the savings. That's about it. The rest of  
11 it was pretty clear.

12 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: All right.  
13 Well, thank you.

14 Is there anyone else who would like to provide a  
15 comment at this time?

16 (NO RESPONSE).

17 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: Well,  
18 we'll go ahead and recess the hearing again.

19 (A SHORT RECESS WAS HAD AT  
20 8:22 P.M. UNTIL 8:59 P.M.)

21 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: We're  
22 going to reopen the hearing.

23 And if anyone has any oral comments they would  
24 like to provide, now is the time.

25 (NO RESPONSE)

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1 HEARING OFFICER DAVE KAUMHEIMER: With that,  
2 we will now close the hearing. It's 9 p.m.

3

4

(HEARING ADJOURNED AT

5

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:

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JOHN COOPER  
TOM CARPENTER  
ARNOLD MARTIN  
RICK GLENN

