

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

NATIONAL SECURITY TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

THIS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT CONSTITUTES
THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE

2030 COMPLEX
SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMATIC
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Held at the
TONOPAH CONVENTION CENTER
301 Brougner Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89049

On
November 29, 2006

Beginning at
6:00 p.m.

Reported by: JILL JACOBY
Verbatim Reporter

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

2

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006, 6:00 P.M.

TONOPAH CONVENTION CENTER

MR. GALLI: Tonopah, Nevada, is perhaps more unique than any other place that the DOE/NNSA could impact. It defines remote. It is 110 miles to Bishop, California, 210 to Las Vegas, 240 to Reno.

Tonopah, Nevada, has no business even being here. There are good reasons that there are no other towns nearby. The only reason we're here at all is the silver. Because there was silver, the highways came, the railroads came, someone brought water, and defying logic, the town was built in the middle of nowhere.

When the silver was gone, a few hung on. World War II brought activity and that more or less led to the AEC coming here 50 years ago to build a test range. And Tonopah has history with its DOE counterparts. A fuss ensued and right or wrong, Tonopah has seen little benefit from the money and employment 30 miles away.

The DOE house at TTR employs about 120 people. Of those, perhaps 80 have chosen to live in Tonopah. I'm not really sure of the numbers, but my point is that Tonopah is fragile. I owned a business for 11 years in this town and I can tell you no one is getting rich being in business here, most just hang on. As for me, steady

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

1 wages and benefits far exceeded my experience of
2 self-employment. By the way, I'm employed at Sandia
3 National Laboratory at the Tonopah Test Range, I live in
4 Tonopah, Nevada.

5 I had to go to work in Reno so my children
6 didn't starve when I was self-employed in Tonopah. My
7 point is that the math is fairly easy, 80 employees at the
8 range with families equals about 400 humans with needs in
9 the town of Tonopah. There are only about 1400 here in the
10 first place. If the 400 with steady income -- and I think
11 it's fair to say that that one-third generates two-thirds
12 of Tonopah's income -- go away, I think it's easy to
13 predict that Tonopah will look like Mina or Goldfield in a
14 very short time.

15 Most or all of the businesses will collapse,
16 they're close to it already. Logic would say nearly every
17 service would disappear, it's just too big of a hit for the
18 town to absorb. We're not like other small towns that have
19 neighboring towns 20 miles in any direction. Travelers in
20 Nevada that enjoy a hospital approximately halfway between
21 Las Vegas and Reno would be looking at a 450-mile stretch
22 with no ambulance service. While that might logically
23 become 435 miles because the highway department might look
24 at realigning the road from Miller's to Goldfield, like the
25 railroads did long ago. Beyond the hospital's small

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

1 capability to save lives, the emergency services here do
2 not hesitate to call on the talented medics at the range to
3 come and help in any emergency. That benefit would
4 disappear.

5 Finally, I'll say that many of us live here for
6 our own selfish reasons. We enjoy knowing our neighbors in
7 a somewhat slower pace. Something the NNSA should consider
8 is the sacrifice those of us who live here have made in our
9 service to the DOE/NNSA.

10 By owning our homes here in order to serve the
11 DOE, we have removed ourselves from any realistic housing
12 markets. I'm thankful to enjoy one of the nicer homes in
13 Tonopah, but if I have to pick up and go to Albuquerque to
14 continue serving the DOE, I'll be leaving housing markets
15 that only supports between one-third and one half of what
16 an equivalent home would cost me in the Albuquerque market.
17 And that was on its best day. If the town collapses, my
18 house will be worth approximately nothing. At 55 years
19 old, I'll be starting over in a new place with nothing.

20 (End of comment.)

21 ANONYMOUS TONOPAH CITIZEN: My comments are
22 around safety and cost.

23 I'm a concerned citizen. I understand that cost
24 is a major factor for the idea of closure of the Tonopah
25 Test Range. I further understand that moving these tests

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

1 to White Sands is because DOD security can protect these
2 critical assets at a much lower cost. Due to lower
3 standards of protection from DOD, I am told they don't
4 require the number of personnel to protect these assets.
5 The personnel protecting these assets do not have near the
6 training or the high standards of human reliability. The
7 Department of Energy has high standards of protection of
8 these critical assets, especially in light of 9-11.

9 Is this government action of attempting to lower
10 cost increasing the threat of safety of citizens at other
11 locations by self-imposing lower requirements from the DOD
12 at a different location?

13 Tonopah Test Range has uninterrupted airspace
14 with a large safety footprint of over 500 square miles. It
15 is completely surrounded by live bombing ranges except to
16 the north. This large safety footprint ensures the safety
17 of the public will not be jeopardized by test units that
18 have gone array. Supersonic and high altitude tests are
19 routinely conducted with complete safety and no threat to
20 the public. Do all other proposed sites have such a large
21 safety footprint?

22 The TTR soil and water tables ensure safe
23 testing. Do other sites have the same standards for
24 testing? The hardness of soil and hardness of rock. The
25 Tonopah Test Range location also offers security for

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

2 ranges. Security projects, such as the stealth fighter,
3 was successfully conducted and secrecy was provided and
4 kept due to the location. Have these other sites undergone
5 site vulnerability analyses for the protection of such
6 assets?

7 In the event of a catastrophic failure of a test
8 unit that could travel over 50 miles off course, this has
9 actually occurred at Tonopah, but due to this location and
10 sparsely populated areas, no personnel was put in
11 jeopardy. Do other sites offer such a large safety
12 footprint? Predominant winds flow toward unpopulated
13 areas. Is this the same at other sites that are being
14 considered?

15 How much money has been spent in the last 5
16 years for the TTR upgrades? What monies in the DOE plans
17 were spent for maintenance upkeep in the past 5 years?

18 Throughout Tonopah there are many existing
19 targets for test units. How much money will it cost to
20 replace these targets and also clean them up if we do
21 leave? Cleanup has been dropping since 1957. What is the
22 cost for cleanup? What records have been kept and what has
23 been dropped?

24 (End of comment.)

25 ///

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

7

1 MR. BROWN: If you folks will take your seats,
2 we'll get started.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

3 I'd like to echo Ted's compliments on the
4 turnout here. This is the largest turnout of any of the
5 meetings that we've had. We've had some meetings in much
6 larger cities, so I think you folks are the champions in
7 terms of the per capita turnout. I imagine that's probably
8 a prize that you'll retain for the rest of the meetings.
9 So again, thanks very much for turning out.

10 It's now time to take your formal comments. A
11 court reporter will be transcribing your comments for the
12 formal record.

13 I will call two names in the order in which
14 you've signed up. The first name will be the person
15 speaking. The second name will just let you know that
16 you'll be the next up in order.

17 Given the number of people who have signed up, I
18 think we'll say that you'll have five minutes in order to
19 complete your comments. I'll let you know when you're at
20 the minute mark so that you can gracefully conclude your
21 comments.

22 If you've got more to add, of course as people
23 have noted, there's any number of ways in which you can
24 submit the remainder of your comments.

25 I'd finally like to note that Ted Wyka will be

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

8

1 representing NNSA as listening to your comments.

2 So with that I'd like to start with our first
3 person. Terry Rivero will begin. And Jerry Elliston will

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

4 follow.

5 So if you'll just give your name and
6 affiliation, if that's appropriate.

7 MR. RIVERO: Good evening, everybody, Terry
8 Rivero, Tonopah Town Board.

9 I have a couple of concerns about this. They
10 call this an Environmental Impact-type Statement.
11 Everybody that lives out in the west, environmental means
12 what's going on with the environment. The environmental
13 that we're dealing with here with the possibility loss of
14 stuff out of TTR are the people sitting in this room, the
15 public that live here, that work here, that has been a
16 strong force for defense of this country for 60, 70 years.
17 Started out with the Army airfield out there during World
18 War II. It went on during the initial phases of all the
19 nuclear stuff when we started out nuclear weapons. It's
20 been carried on. We lost the stealth a few years ago.
21 That was one of the best kept secrets. This little
22 community held it for the government.

23 What concerns me about this thing is why would a
24 government that is so hot on national security and
25 protecting the people want to consolidate the most terrible

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

9

1 stuff in the world into small locations when you have
2 countries Iran, North Korea, and how many other countries
3 developing, blatantly developing nuclear weapons.
4 Terrorists that can get into their one location and destroy

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

5 and turn of ours. I find that kind of appalling. Just in
6 the last year we've had two major security breaches at Los
7 Alamos Laboratory. One was just announced today on TV
8 again. This place out here is pretty secure. Try to get
9 on it and see where you'll end up.

10 I find it appalling that our government would
11 like to consolidate that type of nuclear stuff into one
12 spot. This has worked for many years. We so-called Cold
13 War. We've got a major war going on right now. Fanatic,
14 fanaticism, and how long before our old adversaries stand
15 up and start building again. I don't think we're far away
16 from that, folks.

17 I don't think this is right. And for the people
18 of this community, I don't think we need to be slapped
19 again by the government as we have been in the past. We
20 deserve better.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. BROWN: Okay. Jerry Elliston is next, and
24 then Horace Carlisle.

25 MR. ELLISTON: Jerry Elliston, I'm a manager for
National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

10

1 Washington Group, one of the contractors for Sandia out at
2 the Test Site. I've been out there for 26 years.

3 In your briefing, one of the first things you
4 said your challenge was cost efficiency. I'm wondering how
5 much facts you've got already on the efficiency of

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

6 operating Tonopah or moving this operation to somewhere
7 else. It seems that the numbers we're hearing don't seem
8 to be apples to apples.

9 I'll give you an example. Senator Ensign got a
10 bunch of letters from concerned taxpayers and asked his
11 staff to find out what was going on at Tonopah. Called
12 NNSA up, asked them to come over the next day, give him a
13 briefing of what was going on. Somebody from NNSA went
14 over there and said we're closing it down because of cost,
15 it cost too much money. They said, what do you mean? They
16 said, well, it costs \$140 million to keep it open, just to
17 continue operations. The security costs were astronomical.
18 Cleanup costs were, if they left, was about \$50 million,
19 and annual operating costs was a certain dollar amount.

20 The \$140 million was a state-of-the-art
21 facility. Now, the facilities they're looking to take this
22 to are not state-of-the-art facilities. If they're going
23 to move this to NTS, has no infrastructure for technical
24 capabilities. They're going to take our old technical
25 systems down there and use them down there and build the

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

11

1 rest of the infrastructure. That doesn't seem cost
2 efficiency.

3 White Sands has some technical capabilities, but
4 they can't do the mission that we're doing. They can't
5 track high flying airplanes. They can't do a downhole
6 recovery of a berth penetrator weapon. They have very

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

7 limited facilities down there, they have a very hectic
8 schedule. And so where is the cost efficiency? To me, it
9 doesn't seem it's fair that you're doing that. You're
10 looking at operating costs that today involve huge security
11 costs because of the special nuclear material weapons that
12 we do. NNSA-driven security costs are very high, that's
13 why you're consolidating. Now we've been told that the
14 physics labs have announced and made a decision that there
15 will be no more gravity bombs after '08 with special
16 nuclear materials except for one slap down test every 4
17 years. So why are we continuing to now doing cost analysis
18 of doing special tests at other sites? As far as I know,
19 the only cost we got from the Nevada Test Site involves the
20 security of a special weapon down there to do a special
21 weapons test. They're not going to do them. So why are we
22 doing that? Why don't we get real costs compared to the
23 operating cost of Tonopah? It doesn't take \$140 million to
24 continue operations out there. We've done it for lots of
25 years out there. Our systems are capable of being able to

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

12

1 maintain with some very modest improvements, technical
2 improvements to our facility and our infrastructure and our
3 technical systems. We continue to test well into the
4 future for a very modest -- pennies compared to dollars of
5 taking it somewhere else especially when you consider that
6 they're going to take our stuff and take it somewhere else
7 and use it. They don't have anything down there, so it

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

8 doesn't make sense to me.

9 And then there's no, their targets aren't good.
10 They're going to be missing limitations. They don't have a
11 good penetrator for the targets. They have -- there's
12 just, the dollars is what I would like to see. I'd like to
13 see the cost savings that NNSA says that they're going to
14 save by doing this, by moving this operation somewhere
15 else.

16 The other question I've got is the decision --
17 Complex 2030, which is a huge decision -- I didn't see
18 anything in the presentation about cost savings of Complex
19 2030, what it's going to cost to do Complex 2030, and what
20 that's going to save us taxpayers, you and me, how much
21 money that's going to save if this mission, this challenge,
22 I didn't see any numbers in there anywhere.

23 The other thing that seems odd to me is can we
24 realistically expect politicians to make a decision at this
25 level in the fall of '08 which is a national election? You

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

13

1 know, I think the politicians are going to -- it's going to
2 be high on their agenda in '08. So what does that do to
3 the decision? You know, this decision affects lots of
4 lives. I mean, across the whole complex. I mean, not just
5 Tonopah but lots of places. You know, and obviously
6 Tonopah, it's like Terry said, everybody in this room is
7 here because of a, you either work there, you have a spouse
8 works there, you have a kid that works there, you have

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

9 friend that's involved in this community, and it will have
10 a big impact. So now when is the decision going to be
11 made?

12 So realistically, is that a realistic goal to do
13 it in '08? I don't know. I just find it hard to believe.

14 I've got lots of questions, but that's probably
15 close to my five minutes, so I'll stop at that.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. BROWN: Horace Carlyle, and Rob Roberts will
18 follow.

19 MR. CARLYLE: Horace Carlyle, resident.

20 I don't know, I'm just an elderly citizen here,
21 I live here, I think it's a wonderful town, great people.

22 However as a citizen, I'm not going to argue its
23 cost efficiency, whatever they decide. However, I would
24 argue that they have an asset that's being overlooked.
25 Tonopah Test Site, the Tonopah Airport.

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

14

1 Before I moved here, I talked to the economic
2 coordinator for Western Nevada Development Corporation, we
3 had a discussion about the Air Force and Nellis Air Force
4 Base and the probability of eventually the Air Force will
5 have to reactivate the base or use it because of the
6 encroachment of Nellis.

7 They're getting a huge backlash on Yucca
8 Mountain because of the proximity of Las Vegas. You're
9 getting Coyote Springs, another 150,000 homes. You have

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

10 the city of Las Vegas extending 19 miles from the city
11 limit, minimum. You have water issues there, and you're
12 talking about taking more.

13 I don't care if you do it, but you're talking
14 about taking -- as a citizen I care because I think it's a
15 bad judgment, but you're talking about taking more work
16 down to the Nevada Test Site which has already stolen
17 nuclear waste. You're going to get more political and
18 economic resistance down there than you'll ever get here.
19 We as residents here, we appreciate the Tonopah Test Site.
20 We support it. I don't think you're going to get that kind
21 of support at a lot of other communities.

22 I just think that we have a wonderful community,
23 it's a great resource. It has a lot of potential for a
24 minimal expansion where people can be relocated here at a
25 very cheap, economic cost. We have a great school system.

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

15

1 We have a great town government. We have a great
2 population. We have a great climate. And we're not that
3 far away from amenities.

4 So I as a citizen, regardless of what you
5 decide, I just think we have a great resource that's not
6 being utilized correctly and you have to utilize correctly
7 in the future.

8 Anyway, I'm just saying as a resident of
9 Tonopah, I think we have a great community. We have great
10 resources that should be looked at again.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BROWN: Dr. Roberts.

13 Al O'Donnell will be next.

14 DR. ROBERTS: Good evening everyone, and I'd
15 like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to
16 speak tonight concerning this issue.

17 I'd like to say I'm the superintendent of
18 schools for Nye County School District. Tonopah being the
19 county seat in the district office. And just a couple of
20 issues.

21 One is that we have probably some of the best
22 schools in Nevada right here in Tonopah, Silver Rim
23 Elementary, Tonopah Elementary Middle School, and Tonopah
24 High School. Go Muckers! Who fought a hard battle and
25 recently came up a little bit short of the state

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

16

1 champi onshi p.

2 But if the communi ty suffers another si gni fi cant
3 loss of employ ee parents, then the chil dren will leave.
4 This has happened to thi s communi ty before and there has
5 been a conti nual decli ne in student enrol lment in these
6 schools for a number of years. And lately we've pl ateaued.
7 We've been able to main tain what we have, the teachi ng
8 staffs, the bus dri vers, secretari es, custodi ans,
9 counsel ors, admi ni strators, etc., and the chil dren are
10 getti ng a good educa ti on. If you pull out 50, 100
11 addi ti onal stu dents, the schools will have to be

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

12 reconsolidated or closed or realigned, just for the simple
13 cost of operating those facilities. Bus drivers, routes,
14 all those things have to be changed when you have fewer and
15 fewer students.

16 How much does one community have to suffer as a
17 result of federal decisions concerning the Department of
18 Defense or the Department of Energy facilities in one small
19 community? I think we've had enough of that. And I for
20 one would support expanding the operation we have because
21 the community does fall out for the federal government, for
22 our Department of Defense, and the needs as part of our
23 nation.

24 Second issue, I'm a retired regular Army
25 Lieutenant Colonel and I taught tactics at West Point. And

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

17

1 I can tell that we tried consolidation before, it's called
2 Battleship Row Pearl Harbor and Hickam Army Airfield.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. BROWN: Al O'Donnell.

6 And Joni Eastley will be next.

7 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you. My name is Al
8 O'Donnell with the Chamber of Commerce.

9 And I just want to express our concerns as a
10 community with the loss of jobs and positions out at the
11 Tonopah Test Site. From an economic standpoint, it would
12 have a devastating affect on our community. We would not

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

13 only lose families, but these people, you know, the people
14 here that live here and go to school here and work here
15 make up this community. And with the realignment or
16 shifting of positions or removal of facilities or positions
17 at the Tonopah Test Site, the affect on the community would
18 just be horrendous.

19 We are struggling already with economic problems
20 with this town because of past decisions and things being
21 done. Our efforts to promote economic growth are
22 continuing. We work very hard on that and it's difficult
23 to do when we are faced with the possibility of losing so
24 much. We have to project an image to attract people that
25 come to our community to invest in it, to start businesses,

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

18

1 to build homes, to move their families here, and invest
2 their lives and their efforts into it. If the perception
3 is that the town is going to be on a decline or it's not
4 going to prosper, people don't want to come.

5 Tony makes some very good comments a few minutes
6 ago about the support of the people of Tonopah of the
7 Tonopah Test Site and the affect that it's had over the
8 years. I don't think you're going to find another
9 community anywhere that will support the government and its
10 efforts, that will keep things confidential, and that will
11 provide the -- just the support that we need.

12 Not only does the Tonopah Test Site support the
13 NNSA flight test operations, but we also have facilities

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

14 for supporting other Department of Defense activities,
15 weapons testing, equipment testing, personnel testing, if
16 you want to use that phrase. We have an environment out
17 here in this desert environment around Tonopah that is
18 similar to areas in the Middle East that we're involved
19 with now. And it, I think, just provides the right
20 atmosphere for even our national training center.

21 So what we're saying is that consider Tonopah
22 Test Site for upgrades. A lot of the facilities are
23 already there. The talent is here, the staff is here. And
24 there is a lot more activities that we can support in
25 addition to the Nuclear Security Administration.

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

19

1 There's a possibility of Nellis having to
2 expand. The encroachment that's going on around Nellis Air
3 Force Base right now is putting a lot of restrictions on
4 them. The northern area here in Nye County is remote, it's
5 not heavily populated, and it's just a good location for
6 those kind of activities and a good facility for that.

7 I think I've covered all my notes. But I just
8 want to make sure that when you are putting together your
9 Environmental Impact Statement that this is part of the
10 environment. They're sitting here tonight, they're very
11 concerned, have always supported these activities in the
12 past and will continue to do so.

13 So the options that we have here as stated on
14 this part is to leave Tonopah Test Site as it is. If there

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

15 is no other reason to move it, if things are the same in
16 other places, with everything being equal, just leave it
17 where it's at. And consider that the environment, the
18 people that are here and the facilities that are available
19 are well suited for expansion of its role of both national
20 defense and the nuclear weapons program.

21 That's all I have. Thank you.

22 MR. BROWN: Joni Eastley.

23 And Rachelle Goebel will follow.

24 MS. EASTLEY: Hi, Joni Eastley, Nye County
25 Commissioner, and I am proud to represent the town of

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

20

1 Tonopah, which is part of District 2.

2 I appreciate that the government would want to
3 investigate the feasibility of consolidating their
4 operations to reduce costs. What I want on the record is
5 that I don't appreciate finding out that they were going to
6 be investigating the feasibility of that consolidation by a
7 telephone call from a member of the Washington, D.C.,
8 press. I don't appreciate that.

9 Additionally, on behalf of the folks in this
10 room, many of whom I've heard from about this issue, I also
11 don't appreciate the fact that while the Tonopah Test Range
12 is in Tonopah, obviously, the meetings that -- the first
13 meetings that were held were held in Clark County. And I
14 realize that a lot of the folks who work at the Test Site
15 live in Clark County, but this is being done to Tonopah,

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

16 it's not being done to Clark County. So I would like that
17 read into the record.

18 Some of the comments I want to make have already
19 been made by other people, so I'm not going to beat that
20 horse, I'll put those in writing and submit them. But I do
21 agree with what several people have said concerning the
22 socioeconomic impacts of what any potential downsizing or
23 consolidation of operations at the Nevada Test Site would
24 do to this community. I have been, since I moved to
25 central Nevada 22 years ago, I have been very impressed

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

21

1 with the level of commitment and the patriotism that have
2 been shown by the people particularly in this community and
3 the ones who work at the Tonopah Test Range. They're proud
4 of what they do. They have confidence in the results that
5 they produce, and they are willing to go to the mat for
6 this country in the protection of its citizens.

7 One comment that hasn't been made. I understand
8 that the land use permit has been approved through 2019.
9 So my question to the staff would be what would it take for
10 Tonopah Test Range to survive through 2019 through the end
11 of the land use permit? And I'd say that the answer can be
12 given by the employees who work out there. I'm sure that
13 they would be the ones who would be most informed about
14 what specific actions could be taken at the Tonopah Test
15 Range to stop the movement of any missions from that site
16 to the Nevada Test Site and it could probably be done from

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

17 what I understand at a much cheaper cost.

18 One final comment and that is concerning -- I
19 guess you would still call it reclamation at TTR, correct?
20 You'd still have to reclaim the property as part of the
21 land use plan?

22 One thing that I would not like to see is a
23 determination of the cleanup costs at TTR if the decision
24 is made to move the operations to NTS. A determination of
25 what those cleanup costs would be and then to have those

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

22

1 cleanup costs built into a federal budget 5 or 10 years
2 down the road which would conveniently make them, in my
3 opinion, one of those forgettable issues for the folks who
4 live up here.

5 It makes much more sense to me from a cost
6 efficiency standpoint to leave operations here through 2019
7 which coincides with the end of the current land use permit
8 and work on the cleanup issues through that period and
9 build that into some kind of a long-range plan.

10 Those are my comments. But listen to the
11 employees, I'm sure that they have some reasonable
12 solutions and suggestions.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. BROWN: Rachelle.

16 Cindy Kaminski after Rachelle.

17 MS. GOEBEL: Hello, my name's Rachelle Goebel, I
Page 21

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

18 work for Sandia National Laboratory. I'm also a local
19 citizen of Tonopah and have been a Nevadan for -- my family
20 has been in Nevada for well over a hundred years and I'm
21 proud to say I'm a Nevadan and would like to stay.

22 As far as work, you know, I know that they're
23 looking at consolidating and I can see some of the
24 understanding, but I look at our equipment, our equipment
25 is a little elderly but it has worked well for our testing

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

23

1 for many, many years and is still in perfect operational
2 condition. And I was listening to Jerry and Joni about the
3 cost of the reclamation and the moving. I can see the
4 reclamation is going to be extensive and then having to
5 take that and build it again somewhere else when that is
6 already being used and efficiently used where it is now.
7 (Applause.)

8 I can also, you know, why if you're going to
9 take the testing that we do here and move it somewhere
10 else, and the environmental, why would you want to take
11 that environmental change, you know, and put that somewhere
12 else as well? I know NTS does the nuclear testing and such
13 there, but we've also looked at the use of the land and the
14 environmental areas to be used and it doesn't look very
15 efficient to me. And we've done the testing in Tonopah out
16 on the test range for so long. I just don't see the
17 feasibility and why to move it.

18 Thank you.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

19

(Applause.)

20

MR. BROWN: Cindy will be followed by Rolly

21

Marlow.

22

MS. KAMINSKI: I'm Cindy Kaminski and I'm the

23

chairman of the Tonopah Town Board.

24

Some of the things I want to bring up is NNSA

25

and DOE. If they were to shut down TTR, would they assist

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

24

1 the employees with relocation, retraining, finding them new
2 jobs? As, you know, this needs to get into the picture.

3

There's a rumor right now going around that with

4

the closure of TTR, some of the employees are looking to

5

move to NTS close by here, but DOE told NTS not to hire

6

from TTR because it would jeopardized the integrity of the

7

security here.

8

Are there any incentives for the people right

9

now to stay? I know you're talking about these different

10

plans, but the thing is when Rocky Flats was told that they

11

were going to close down, Rocky Flats also came up with

12

some incentives, very good incentives, to keep those

13

employees around until Rocky Flats closed down. Is that

14

going to be in the picture?

15

Ted did bring up about having nuclear material

16

in one area. I think we all know the old adage about

17

having all your eggs in one basket, and Ted and I did

18

discuss this afterwards.

19

Ted also brought up about computer simulation.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

20 We all know how computers work or how they tend not to
21 work. Is this going to be 100 percent sure of the
22 accuracy, these computer simulations? We have to look at
23 human error, and I think that needs to be looked into.

24 Tonopah is unique for testing. We all know
25 that, especially the people that work here or that live

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

25

1 here, that have worked out in the Test Site. It's been
2 said about, you know, we've already contaminated the area
3 just like NTS has been contaminated.

4 Let's see. Nuclear capabilities. They're
5 talking about Korea, Iran, and the nuclear testing that
6 they're doing. Do we really want to scale back on the
7 nuclear testing? I understand what the President is
8 saying. But with the things that are going on nowadays in
9 the terrorism situation, I think a lot of us have kids that
10 are in the military. I have a daughter that's in the Army,
11 she's been over and served in Iraq twice now. The war that
12 our kids are fighting right now is not a war that our
13 parents and grandparents fought. We knew who the enemy
14 was. We do not know who the enemy is when we go over
15 there. These kids are not sure what's going, you know,
16 where the enemy is going to come from. So do we really
17 want to scale back on our nuclear capabilities or do we
18 want to be a strong nation that we have been? Politically
19 correct. I don't care if it's politically correct or not,
20 we need to maintain our integrity as a world power.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

21 Cost cutting has already been started by Sandia
22 is what I'm being told. Now this has been started with two
23 of the subcontractors of Sandia and that is security and
24 Westinghouse.

25 Is that going to continue? Are you going to

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

26

1 continue to take pay away from employees that have been
2 there 20 plus years? This is not an incentive if we do go
3 to closing, you know, that portion of TTR, this is not an
4 incentive to keep those employees staying there.

5 Economic social effects, we've talked about
6 that, I think everybody understands that.

7 Consideration of cost to cleanup on TTR. And
8 then the cost of operating TTR is a lot less than NTS.

9 A lot of the people that work at TTR do not
10 receive remote site pay as they do at NTS. There's a lot
11 of other pay that the people up here at TTR do not get that
12 they do down at NTS. And because of that, the cost savings
13 to move to TTR down or the testing that we do down to NTS
14 would not be favorable because of the amount that it does
15 cost to run NTS versus TTR.

16 And with that, my last comment I will write and
17 hand that in.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. MARLOW: Well, most of you know me know I
21 hate to get up in front of people, I'm shy and all.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

22 (Laughter.)

23 As we all know, cost drives everything. I know
24 that when I contacted the senator's office as soon as this
25 came out, I was being briefed by Sandia that it was not a

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

27

1 dollar issue, it was not a cost issue. The first thing the
2 senator's office told me was when the \$140 million line
3 item hit Congress, first thing they said was, Tonopah still
4 open? We need to close it. First thing that we were told.

5 I do understand cost. DOD versus DOE security
6 costs, sure it's more. DOD does security a lot cheaper
7 than we do, but DOD doesn't require the security
8 requirements that DOE does. We the citizens here, we
9 didn't decide those security requirements, NNSA did. We do
10 maintain them, we maintain them very well. I have been
11 here myself since 1982, my company has been here since
12 1974. We have done security here for many years through
13 all of the changes of the '80s and the '90s, and the 2000s.
14 I probably won't see the 3000s, but.

15 As money is an issue, the first thing I'd like
16 to know is how much is the cleanup really going to cost,
17 I've heard many estimates. The last I heard was it was
18 going to be Yucca Mountain money so that's what it would
19 cost to clean up. I'd like to know as a citizen is that
20 true, is that what it's going to cost? If it's Yucca
21 Mountain money, you can keep Tonopah open for about the
22 next hundred years and still not spend that money, so.

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

23 Also the relocation cost of the Tonopah assets,
24 the targets. We do know that we've been through this, I
25 think this is a minimum of four times in my career of

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

28

1 shutting Tonopah down. Every time they went out and done
2 studies see where they can take these tests to and every
3 time it's always come back you can't do it anywhere but
4 here. I'm hoping that this is another one of those times.
5 If they do a study come back and go you know what? Tonopah
6 is an asset, just like we feel like we are.

7 Speaking of assets, I think one of the things
8 that TTR presents that a lot of places don't present is the
9 remote location. We have the airspace. Right now Nellis
10 is fighting for airspace. Everybody is fighting for
11 airspace. We have it here. We have the safety cushion.
12 If something goes wrong, we have the space to let -- some
13 things can go wrong and still not harm anything.

14 My thing is is if you're going to, you say you
15 want to consolidate, why can't Tonopah be considered a
16 consolidation point? We have the best security, we have
17 the best location for it. If the terrorists do attack,
18 what are they going to come to? I can tell you if they
19 drive through Tonopah more than 30 miles an hour, we're
20 going to mess up their time line right off the bat.
21 (Laughter and applause.)

22 Tonopah, the people of Tonopah, like I said,
23 I've lived here since 1982, they do take great pride in

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

24 maintaining security. We have had some great things that
25 have occurred here that have made a difference in the world

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

29

1 which I will not go into because I don't know if they're
2 still classified or not. I don't want to get killed my
3 only time up here. (Laughter.)

4 Tonopah as a community understands security.
5 They report anything that doesn't look right. If you drive
6 through this town and you don't look like you belong here,
7 you're going to be reported and Nye County's finest is
8 going to be pulling you over for something to talk to you.
9 And if you start talking anything but English, you're not
10 going to be at Tonopah. (Laughter.)

11 I believe that TTR has many unlimited uses that
12 have not been explored. There are great things that can be
13 done at Tonopah, I just don't believe the resources have
14 been looked at. One of your greatest resources out here is
15 the people itself. If NNSA really wants to study
16 efficiency, bring them to Tonopah, we'll show you
17 efficiency.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. BROWN: Well, that's a tough act to follow.
20 And nobody else signed up and that may be why.

21 But anyway, that was our last sign up speaker.
22 If anybody else would like to comment, please feel free to
23 step forward. We've actually got about 2 hours, I'm got
24 giving you 2 hours. But if anybody else would like to

Tonopah 2030 Complex meeting

25 comment on something they heard or anything else, please

National Security Technologies, LLC
Reporting Services

30

1 feel free to come forward.

2 MR. ELLISTON: Do you guys have any response to
3 any of the questions? Were there any -- you can share with
4 us? I mean, there's a lot of good questions here.

5 MR. BROWN: Okay. I guess Ted said that he'd be
6 happy to answer specific questions and also people will be
7 around at the individual location.

8 MR. RIVERO: Can I come back?

9 MR. BROWN: Sure.

10 MR. RIVERO: I just want to address the crowd
11 one more time.

12 MR. BROWN: Okay. Terry's back for a second
13 round.

14 MR. RIVERO: First off, you people put me back
15 in office for another four years. What I'd like all of you
16 in this room to do that live in this community, we have
17 five U.S. Congresspeople that live in Washington. Start
18 writing letters now. Send one every week. They will get
19 the message. If not, we can get rid of them five and put
20 five more in there. But starting writing tonight a letter
21 a week. And write the President if we have to, but we
22 don't need an injustice done to this community again.
23 Okay?

24 Thanks.

25 (Applause.)
Page 29

1 MR. BROWN: Okay. Anyone else.

2 If not, what we customarily do, we're scheduled
3 to stay in session until actually till 10:00. It's a cold
4 night out, you all don't need to stay. But anyway, we will
5 recess. If somebody does want to offer other comments,
6 just see me and we'll reconvene and you'll have your
7 chance.

8 So let's recess. People have other questions,
9 there's a lot of personnel around who will be happy to
10 answer your questions.

11 -oOo-

12 MS. BOLTZ: The time is now 10:00, which is the
13 announced ending time for the Tonopah meeting on the
14 National Nuclear Security Administration Supplemental
15 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

16 The meeting is now officially adjourned.

17 Thank you.

18 -oOo-

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEVADA)
)
COUNTY OF CLARK) ss

I, JILL JACOBY, do hereby attest that I took down in shorthand all of the proceedings had in the before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated; and thereafter said shorthand notes, in conjunction with audiotapes, were transcribed into computer-aided transcription; and that the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings had to the best of my skill and ability.

Executed this 26th day of December 2006, at North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jill Jacoby
Verbatim Reporter