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My Name is James Daniel Kinney Jr.  
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Thank you for allowing me to testify with regard to the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study.

As a resident and businessman in Yakima for over 40 years, I have worked to provide a viable community, one that is both economically prosperous and offers the recreational opportunities of the Great Northwest. I believe that water is a very important ingredient in our lives here in Central Washington. Truly the water has turned the desert to into the Fruit Bowl of the Nation, and is the lifeblood of our valley.

As a member of the Yakima River Watershed Council's Storage Committee I studied and learned a great deal about the water needs and uses throughout the Yakima Valley. In June 1998 the Yakima River Watershed Council issued a Report with the following:

Recommends pursuing the least cost, least ecologically damaging, surface water storage reservoirs as a potential way of making water available during the water short years for the recovery of the basin at risk fish species and the legitimate needs of the current agricultural and municipal base.

In reviewing the Black Rock Study plan with this recommendation in mind, the main problem I find with this Feasibility Study is that Black Rock is certainly NOT a least cost Proposal. With Total Project Cost of \$4.5 Billion and Annual Operational costs of \$60 million this solution is too expensive for water users and taxpayers alike. I might add that it is also NOT very energy efficient – With annual pumping costs of \$50 million. That's enough energy for 54,000 homes, which would require the construction of another wind farm the size of the Wild Horse Project in Above Ellensburg to produce that much energy.

Black Rock looks to me like it's an overblown solution. Why is the Dam so large? Black Rock would store 1.3 million acre-feet of water behind a 700-foot-high dam – A dam higher and longer than Grand Coulee that holds back the Mighty Columbia. Black Rock would impound almost 3 ½ times the amount of water that would be needed to bring the Junior Water Districts to 70% of their entitlement in the worst year on record, 1994 when they received only 37% of their entitlement.

The National Economic Development Benefit Cost ratio of only 16 cents show the true folly of this proposal. There has already been far too much spent on this unacceptable proposal. By contrast the more conservative Bumping Lake Enlargement could produce a 425,000 ac ft increase – Bureau of Reclamation study estimated the cost to build it in 1983 would have been \$151 million, and annual operating costs of \$100,000. I am sure that adjusting those figures to 2007 Cost estimates would fall far short of the Black Rock \$4.5 Billion price tag.

The Golf courses, Resorts, and the real estate boom, that proponents' talk about are pure speculation and definattly should not be used as justification for increased irrigation storage. Recreational Values, and Commercial ventures are truly pie in the sky. And, how can the operational objective to maintain Black Rock reservoir at full capacity be achieved, when the Columbia River Basin Management Water Management Program has already stated that withdrawals of water from the Columbia River in July and August would be prohibited. Are not July and August not only the prime Recreational months, as well as the months of highest irrigation demand? How could the Black Rock lake level be maintained with No water supply during the largest two months of demand?

I have one additional Concern, that of Groundwater movement to Hanford which could possibly wash contaminanents into the Columbia River. Proponents have offered the idea of sealing the reservoir bottom or construction of a collection system. Unfortunately the Dam is proposed to be built atop faults that are associated with the Yakima Fold Belt, in an area of relatively high earthquake potential. Surely the dam will be designed to withstand seismic activity, but what assurances will we have that an earthquake will not shift the rock structures under the earth and permit both leakage and increased seepage of groundwater.

J. Daniel Kinney Jr.