

1 decided, based upon government presentations,  
2 government statistics, we have a ways to go for  
3 them to earn our trust. And that's their  
4 responsibility. They are here not because we  
5 want them to be here. The government should be  
6 listening to us because they have to be here.  
7 That's the way our government is run.]

8 So, I would just say -- and I'm not  
9 qualified -- and [we've had some, I think,  
3614-3 10 excellent speakers, both a week or so ago and  
IX.C(3) 11 tonight, about technological suggestions. That's  
12 good. That's a step in the right direction.]

13 [I just ask that if good decisions can't  
3614.4 14 be made by -- by -- considered to be good or in a  
VII.A(b) 15 wide enough scope, let's take some time. In that  
16 time, maybe we can build some trust. And maybe  
17 we need opinions other than from government  
18 officials or those who are going to do this and  
19 make a profit by it.]

20 And so, as far as I'm concerned, in God  
21 we trust on this.

22 Thank you.

23 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you for your  
24 comments.

25 Mr. Fulton will be followed by Bertie

1 Herschfield.

2 If I may interrupt for a moment,  
3 Mr. Fulton.

4 Ms. Herschfield is the last  
5 preregistered commentor. I will remind you, if  
6 you would like to comment this evening, if  
7 something was said earlier that sparked a  
8 thought, go register. They'll bring your name to  
9 me, and we'll get your comments here on the  
10 record.

11 Sorry to interrupt. Please proceed.

12 MR. DAN FULTON: My name is Dan Fulton  
13 of Wilson, Wyoming, Box 576.

14 Most of the areas that I would like to  
15 cover have been covered by people. [But I'm  
3615-1 16 willing to go on record and ask the DOE to  
XI(b) 17 provide some information on how they went about  
18 hiring the British company to be the contractor  
19 to build this facility.]

20 [I'd also like to point out, with all due  
3615-2 21 respect to the gentleman that spoke earlier,  
IX.D(i) 22 while I think there are a number of good people  
23 at the INEEL and DOE, I have grave concerns about  
24 their ability to make good decisions.] And I base  
25 that on what's happened in Rocky Flats, Colorado,

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1 and their choice of contractor, who's been barred  
2 from other countries, Japan and Switzerland.

3 So, my grave concerns are as to whether  
4 or not they're making good choices in things that  
5 are going to take a long time to rectify.

6 Thank you.

7 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you for your  
8 comments.

9 I'd also remind you that if you want to  
10 comment and would like to do so in a private  
11 setting that the Department of Energy has set up  
12 a mechanism for you to do so if you're feeling  
13 uncomfortable speaking in front of a group.

14 Good evening, Ms. Herschfield.

15 MS. BERTIE HERSCHFIELD: Hello. My  
16 name's Bert Herschfield. I'm president of the  
17 board of Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free. Keep  
18 Yellowstone Nuclear Free was formed in opposition  
19 to proposed nuclear and hazardous waste  
20 incinerator at the INEEL. For the past six  
21 months, we've been most closely focused on this  
22 complex issue.

23 Only two weeks ago, the DOE released the  
24 Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning  
25 disposal of liquid high-level and low-level waste

3616-1  
IX.C(2)

1 at the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering  
2 Center, INTEC. The disposal of these wastes is a  
3 serious issue and deserves serious attention.

4 The disposal of this waste represents  
5 the largest single undertaking of waste disposal  
6 at INEEL. Considering the gravity of the  
7 situation, we feel that a mere two weeks is  
8 woefully insufficient to evaluate each waste  
9 disposal option. And, furthermore, we consider  
10 the long overdue release of the EIS to be suspect  
11 and dubious.

3616-2  
IX.B(1)

3616-3  
VII.A(6)

12 Nevertheless, in any instance where  
13 there exists the potential for harm to be  
14 inflicted on human life and the environment as a  
15 result of onsite operations, we believe that  
16 citizens should be involved in the  
17 decision-making and implementation processes. As  
18 such, we appreciate the opportunity to speak in  
19 this forum.

3616-4  
VIII.G(7)

20 Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free is very  
21 concerned about the treatment and disposal of  
22 liquid high-level and low-level waste at INTEC.  
23 We support the DOE's and Idaho's desire to  
24 dispose of this waste. However, safety must be  
25 the overriding concern.

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1           And we ask, is it and will it be?

2           [Will the DOE select a method that

3 3616-5           threatens to release toxins into the air?

4 111.D.1(i)           If it does, we will oppose it.]

5           [This waste has been in underground tanks

6 3616-6           for 50 years, 20 years longer than originally

7 111.A(i)           intended. Although DOE claims the tanks are not

8           leaking, the service lines to the tanks have

9           experienced severe leaks.

10           What would it take in cost and time to

11           repair these leaks as a temporary holding-pattern

12           measure while it's investigated in terms of safe

13           ways and alternatives?

14           As we know, [the DOE's past record of

15 3616-7           dealing with low-level waste is horrific. For

16 11X.D(i)           example -- and we don't have to look to other

17           areas. We can look right in Idaho. The DOE has

18           caused low-level waste to reach directly into the

19           Snake River aquifer, resulting in a large plume

20           of contaminated radioactive isotopes beneath the

21           plant.

22           The DOE's record of dealing with

23           high-level waste is equally irresponsible, as

24           witnessed by the substantial radioactivity from

25           the calciner plant into the atmosphere.] [The

3616-8           1 calciner is an antiquated system which began

111.C(4)           2 operating in 1963 and is currently not

3           operating. We firmly oppose any efforts to

4           restart the calciner and advocate for a safer

5           alternative which poses the least threat to our

6           environment and our health.]

7           [Keep Yellowstone Nuclear Free

8 3616-9           acknowledges that this high-level waste stream

9 111(i)           needs attention. As in the case of our

10           opposition for proposed incinerator, we advocate

11           for technology to deal with the waste in which

12           containment and safe long-term stewardship, not

13           expediency and profit, are emphasized.]

14           [We feel that potential methods of

15 3616-10           disposal being considered have not been

16 111.F.2(s)           reality-tested. And, therefore, the consequences

17           associated with these methods are difficult to

18           predict and impossible to guarantee. As such, it

19           is difficult to favor any one particular method

20           of disposal.] And [there must never be any effort

21 3616-11           to reclassify these wastes in order to meet the

22 111(a)           criteria for a more convenient form of treatment;

23           i.e., incineration.]

24           And so I ask: Are there any plans to

25           reclassify the waste?

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3616-12  
VI(1)  
3616-13  
VII.A(6)

1           The reprocessing of nuclear waste has  
 2 resulted in what can only be described as a  
 3 dangerous mess in the state of Idaho. Please  
 4 consider our input as an effort to be part of the  
 5 solution to the serious problem of waste  
 6 treatment and storage with emphasize on the safe  
 7 and long-term stewardship of hazardous and  
 8 nuclear waste, not on expediency and profit.  
 9 Together, we can chart a course that will protect  
 10 all of us from some of the most dangerous waste  
 11 on earth.

12           Thank you.

13           THE FACILITATOR: Thank you for your  
 14 comments.

15           We have a couple of additional  
 16 commentors who have preregistered.

17           Christy Gillespie, who will be followed  
 18 by David Henneberry.

19           And if you would like to comment, please  
 20 go to the registration desk and register. And  
 21 they'll bring your name up to me, and we'll get  
 22 you on the record.

23           Good evening.

24           MS. CHRISTY GILLESPIE: Hi. My name's  
 25 Christy Gillespie, and I live in Jackson,

3617-1  
XI(5)

3617-2  
X(12)

1 Wyoming.

2           And tonight I would like to tell you  
 3 about some of my concerns. I'm concerned about  
 4 British Nuclear Fuels building this incinerator.  
 5 Their past history has been inexcusable. I  
 6 wonder how such a decision could be made to use a  
 7 company like this, especially in the United  
 8 States.

9           I'm concerned about my health, my  
 10 future, and my family's health and my neighbors'  
 11 health. Given the recent public hearings that  
 12 have been held in other towns with incinerators,  
 13 people have come out and said that there's been  
 14 years and years of people having problems of  
 15 health effects, retardation, childhood leukemia.

16           All of these things are very serious  
 17 problems, and they're just now becoming public.  
 18 And these are towns just like ours that have had  
 19 this happen to them years ago. And I don't want  
 20 to become another statistic. I don't want to be  
 21 standing here in ten years telling you how my  
 22 kids have leukemia, how I have cancer.

23           I think I'm going to ask you once more  
 24 to reconsider your decision. Put the money into  
 25 research, please, until a better solution can be

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1 found.]  
 2 Thank you.  
 3 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you for your  
 4 comments.  
 5 David Henneberry.  
 6 Good evening.  
 7 MR. DAVID HENNEBERRY: Hello. My name's  
 8 David Henneberry. I live here in Jackson,  
 9 Wyoming, P.O. Box 6962.  
 10 I understand that something does need to  
 11 be done. We have created a problem, and we do  
 12 need to fix it. I have nothing against that.  
 13 One of the things -- okay. [A plant does have to  
 14 be built.  
 15 Why here?  
 16 Why in our area?  
 17 Why not where it's -- the problem is  
 18 located?  
 19 Why ship it all the way over here, do  
 20 one thing, ship it someplace else?  
 21 Isolate it and take care of it.]  
 22 Okay. [If the plant were problem-free,  
 23 then there would be no problem or less of an  
 24 issue. But, so far, the plants in operation are  
 25 having continuous problems. And all these have

3618-1  
11.A(2)

3618-2  
X(5)

1 to be addressed. They're not being adequately  
 2 handled, and the situations aren't stopping. The  
 3 dancers still exist.]  
 4 [Another thing is acceptable level.  
 5 How does somebody come up with an  
 6 acceptable level?  
 7 It's like a population. You say, okay,  
 8 well, it's okay to kill 200 people out of 200  
 9 million. That's still wrong. Say, okay, a  
 10 billion parts per -- just as a figure -- a  
 11 billion parts -- or one in a billion you can  
 12 inhale.  
 13 Is that safe?  
 14 How much volume of this room is a  
 15 billion parts?  
 16 You know, if there's 200 billion parts  
 17 in here right now, that's enough to kill you  
 18 then. I would like to see these figures properly  
 19 addressed, know exactly where they come from.  
 20 And all the statistics aside -- excuse  
 21 me -- who is saying this is acceptable?  
 22 Did someone come up with a figure?  
 23 That's my concern. For everybody's  
 24 health hazards, the environment, everything.] And  
 25 I think this is something that really needs to be

3618-3  
VIII.G(2)

1 addressed, making it for everybody's sake.  
2 Thank you.  
3 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you for your  
4 comments.  
5 I don't have -- I have no more  
6 preregistered commentors. I would remind you if  
7 you would like to comment this evening that you  
8 can register at the registration desk. We'll get  
9 you on the record.  
10 We're scheduled to be here until nine.  
11 We'll be here until nine o'clock. And if you  
12 would like to comment between now and then,  
13 register, and then we'll go back on the record.  
14 In the meantime, I think we'll go off  
15 the record subject to call from the hearing  
16 officer.  
17 But, before we do so, I want to remind  
18 you March 20 is the deadline for submitting  
19 written comments, as the postmark date. And  
20 there's a variety of other methods for submitting  
21 written comments that you may take advantage of,  
22 and those methods are detailed at the  
23 registration desk.  
24 So, with this, we will take a break.  
25 We'll be subject to call of the hearing officer

1 until nine o'clock, when we're scheduled to  
2 conclude.  
3 Thank you.  
4 (A recess was taken.)  
5 THE FACILITATOR: Okay. We'll be back  
6 on the record.  
7 This is a continuation of the February 9  
8 hearing. And we're in the private setting for  
9 taking oral comments for the record.  
10 And you understand that your comments,  
11 although made in a private setting, will be part  
12 of the public record?  
13 MR. DAN BENNETT: I do.  
14 THE FACILITATOR: Okay. Please state  
15 your name and make your comments.  
16 MR. DAN BENNETT: My name is Dan  
17 Bennett, P.O. Box 592, Jackson, Wyoming.  
18 Two weeks ago I attended the town  
19 meeting's comment period at the middle school  
20 high school here in town for the incineration  
21 that's being proposed over at INEEL.  
22 And although I realized that is not  
23 exactly the subject of tonight's meeting, I would  
24 want to request that the minutes of that town  
25 meeting and comment period be included in

3619-1  
X(10)

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1 tonight's record.]

2           And the reason I am doing that is

3 because it was a very remarkable meeting. The

4 comments were very bright and informed. And it

5 was a much larger attendance than tonight's

6 meeting. And there has since been some kind of

7 disrespect by the Idaho DEQ, saying that they are

8 not going to regard -- or take into account any

9 of the comments that were made at that hearing.

10           Thank you.

11           THE FACILITATOR: Thank you. You

12 understand that your comments are part of the

13 public record, but what you just asked to be made

14 part of the public record would have to be

15 submitted by you to be in the record at this

16 proceeding?

17           And I do believe that those comments are

18 transcribed and available for your review at the

19 reading rooms. There is one at the Teton County

20 Library here.

21           So, just understand that this is -- this

22 is on the record, but things that you ask to put

23 in the record, if you don't submit them, won't be

24 part of this record.

25           MR. DAN BENNETT: I'll be glad to do

1 that, if I have the time to do it. I mean, if

2 there's a time period available --

3           THE FACILITATOR: Through March 20.

4           MR. DAN BENNETT: And I wasn't here for

5 the entire duration of tonight's comments, so I

6 don't know if someone made that same request.

7           THE FACILITATOR: No.

8           MR. DAN BENNETT: Okay. Thank you.

9           THE FACILITATOR: Okay. Thank you,

10 sir.

11           (A recess was taken.)

12           THE FACILITATOR: Okay. We'll be back

13 on the record.

14           We're in continuation of our taking

15 comments in private for the public record. And

16 Mr. Henneberry had a comment.

17           MR. DAVID HENNEBERRY: Okay. I want the

18 record to state that my comments were not

19 directed at the proposed incinerator project. My

20 comments were about my concern with hazardous

21 waste treatment, containment, transport and

22 storage, and the health and safety to everyone in

23 the environment if a contamination situation

24 should occur during any of the above-mentioned

25 areas.

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1 Thank you.  
2 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you.  
3 And, Mr. Henneberry, you understand  
4 that, although your comments are made in a  
5 private setting, they will be part of the public  
6 record?  
7 MR. DAVID HENNEBERRY: Yes, sir.  
8 THE FACILITATOR: Thank you.  
9 MR. DAVID HENNEBERRY: Thank you.  
10 THE FACILITATOR: We will be off the  
11 record.  
12 (A recess was taken.)  
13 THE FACILITATOR: We're back on the  
14 record, people.  
15 I will ask that if anyone in the  
16 audience has -- who would like to comment orally  
17 this evening formally on the record and who has  
18 not commented yet would like to do so.  
19 We've given you an opportunity to  
20 register at the front desk, and I will report,  
21 for the record, that no one has so registered.  
22 If there is anyone who has not commented and  
23 would like to do so, this is your final  
24 opportunity to do that this evening at the  
25 Jackson Hole hearing.

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HLW & FD

EIS PROJECT - AR/PF  
Control # DC-37

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING ON  
IDAHO HIGH-LEVEL WASTE  
AND FACILITIES DISPOSITION  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2000

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
POND STUDENT UNION BUILDING  
POCATELLO, IDAHO

Reported by:  
Kimberly Carpenter, CSR #600

EASTERN IDAHO COURT REPORTERS  
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