

15                   DAVID BLEE: Thank you. My name is David  
16 Blee, executive director of the U.S. Transport  
17 Council. It's great to be back in Hawthorne. I was  
18 fortunate to work with Shelley Hartman and Linda  
19 Mathias on that project. It's great to see you all  
20 again. You do a very good job for the community.

21                   [And first I wanted to speak to something  
22 that Paul Seidler just talked about. He said that  
23 the transportation will have a small impact on the  
24 community, well, correctly talking about the major  
25 upside economically.

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1           I want to read to you the definition of  
2 small from the EIS. It says, Small: Small is  
3 defined for the issue, Environmental effects would  
4 not be detectable or would be so minor that they  
5 would neither be stabilized or noticeably alter any  
6 important attribute of the resource. So that's just  
7 for the record, as everyone has their own definition  
8 of small.

9           I'd like to say the U.S. Transport Council  
10 is pleased to offer some preliminary comments on the  
11 NEPA documents. It is our intent to submit final  
12 comments in writing on or before January 10th, 2008  
13 as proposed.

14           I will say that we find this document  
15 comprehensive and thorough, these documents  
16 comprehensive and thorough. We believe they laid the  
17 groundwork for submittal of the license application  
18 and they have crossed all the Ts and dotted all the  
19 I's necessary.

20           The USTC is a not for profit non-lobbying  
21 organization comprised of approximately 30 nuclear  
22 materials transporters, customers and associated  
23 industries. One of the key things to remember about  
24 the USTC is the depth of experience of its members  
25 who represents a who's who of the transportation

1 industry.

2 Collectively the USTC members have already  
3 transported more spent fuel safely and securely than  
4 is currently earmarked for Yucca Mountain. Our  
5 mission is to preserve, protect and defend the safety  
6 and secure commerce of nuclear materials through  
7 education, public awareness, and consensus building.

8 We do so by letting the facts speak for  
9 themselves and by reminding Americans of the  
10 important benefits derived from nuclear energy with  
11 regard to economic competitiveness, energy and  
12 national security and environmental progress.

13 Obviously it provides 20 percent of our  
14 electricity in the United States. It provides clean  
15 energy, which people are finding more and more  
16 important, and is a lynchpin of our economic  
17 competitiveness with the world. And I think, as Paul  
18 Seidler mentioned, it powers a key portion of our  
19 U.S. Navy nuclear fleet.

20 With regard to our general observations with  
21 respect to the NEPA issues, we believe affected  
22 communities can have high confidence in the  
23 feasibility of the proposed approach for spent fuel  
24 and high-level waste management at the Yucca Mountain  
25 site and the safe, secure transportation of nuclear

1 fuels to the site via the Nevada rail corridor and/or  
2 by truck.

3 The USTC believes that the proposed  
4 transport aging and disposal system, i.e., the TAD,  
5 offers a sound fuel management paradigm and provides  
6 important linkage to the more than 120 interim  
7 storage sites around the country. It is, in fact,  
8 very compatible with the existing systems. It's  
9 really an adaptation of currently employed systems at  
10 the utility plants. It's of the same way as  
11 currently deployed systems and it's very flexible and  
12 versatile.

13 The public should also have full confidence  
14 in the fact that nuclear materials can be transported  
15 safely and securely to Yucca Mountain.

16 This past year the National Academy of  
17 Sciences completed a nearly three year study of the  
18 viability of the national transport campaign to Yucca  
19 Mountain. It's this report here called Going the  
20 Distance - The Safe Transport of Spent Nuclear Fuel  
21 and High-Level Radioactive Waste in the United  
22 States.

23 The National Academy report concluded that  
24 there are no fundamental barriers, quote, No  
25 fundamental barriers to the safe transport of spent

1 fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the United  
2 States, end quote.

3           There are numerous reasons for this  
4 conclusion, including the tested experience of the  
5 transport industry to the robustness of the transport  
6 packages and the proven track record of regulatory  
7 oversight provided by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory  
8 Commission, the U.S. Department of Transportation and  
9 the states themselves in ensuring high standards of  
10 security, safety and emergency preparedness that we  
11 have today.]

12           Let me close by saying that we've made a  
13 special effort to reach out to Nevada stakeholders on  
14 transportation issues. This is not only our mission  
15 but we too are stakeholders in that part of the  
16 nuclear waste policy act requires that the  
17 transportation program be implemented by the private  
18 sectors to the maximum extent, and so we look forward  
19 to working with you and we look forward to answering  
20 any questions you may have along the way. Thank you.