

7 PAUL FRETHEIM: Hello. I'm Paul Fretheim.
8 I live in Independence, California. I'm a
9 photographer and a writer. [And I also think that the 1
10 repository there is a bad idea.]

11 And I actually have a problem with the very
12 language that's used. When the first reactors were
13 built, it was in the early '40s, and what they were
14 built for was to create plutonium to make nuclear
15 weapons. And they noticed in the process of creating
16 the transuranic nuclides that they were out there,
17 that quite a bit of heat was generated. And the
18 decision, you know, they looked at that and thought,
19 gee, there's a lot of waste heat here, we could use
20 this to boil water and spin turbines and thereby
21 generate electricity.

22 So originally the product was the trans
23 nuclides, and the waste was the heat. And if I was
24 running a pulp mill and I was making paper, there
25 might be a lot of heat that comes off and then I'll
1 hook a co-generator to that. So I'm arguing that
2 when we call this deadly stuff that's coming out of
3 these reactors the waste, I think we're not really
4 being accurate, because that heat and electricity is
5 gone instantly and gone forever. But this horribly
6 dangerous stuff that's created is actually the
7 product and it's with us virtually forever.

8 So I think there's even a question of the
9 language we need to get straight. Now, that really

10 won't address the future should we build more of
11 these factories to produce this stuff, and of course
12 I'm arguing no, we shouldn't.

2 13 [And then what I really came to talk to you
14 about though was a couple weeks ago I was in Death
15 Valley working as a guide with the elder hostile
16 program, and we had 24 seniors from all over the
17 United States, and a couple were even from other
18 countries.

19 And one night we were in the Stagecoach Inn
20 in a meeting room having our nightly discussions with
21 everybody talking about the events of the day, and
22 this was a group of very well educated people.
23 Nearly everyone had a college degree. And I would
24 say probably even a majority of them had advanced
25 degrees. For example, we had the engineer who
1 designed the control systems on the Hubble space
2 telescope as one of our participants.

3 And someone raised the question, Where is
4 that Yucca Mountain nuclear waste proposed for? And
5 the director answered, Well, it's just over the hill
6 there. And you should have seen the looks on those
7 people's faces. They said uh-oh, did we take our
8 vacation in the wrong place? And then he said, Well,
9 no, it's not open yet and it's not operating so
10 you're all right.

11 But I think it would have a very negative
12 impact on our tourism industry here, even if there
13 wasn't an accident, because many people understand,

14 as Jennifer was saying, these trucks don't come
15 through clean. You know, over time people get
16 careless, and those trucks are going to be dropping
17 radionuclides all along the way over time.] Thank you
18 very much.