

18 GARY DUARTE: Hello. My name is Gary Duarte.
19 [I'm director of U.S. Nuclear Energy, a nonprofit 501-C3 /
20 foundation. I've been a Nevada resident for over 25 years.
21 I'm not a scientist. Our mission is to influence change in
22 public opinion towards knowledgeable citizens about nuclear
23 energy and waste repository issues.

24 Our goal is to educate average citizens in
25 Nevada and the U.S. about scientific majority by
1 bringing this message to the public with presentations
2 with scientists so that citizens can understand our need
3 to advance nuclear technology in America.

4 Nuclear is clean energy. The Yucca Mountain
5 Repository has proven safe by the majority of scientific
6 analysis. This repository with proper stewardship and
7 an informed citizen understanding can bring Nevada into
8 a 21st Century technology, business diversification, and
9 inspire a technological future for Nevada's education
10 system.

11 Our goal is to help citizens and economic
12 community to see a visionary potential for this future.
13 Yucca Mountain will not be a deterrent to Las Vegas
14 economy. It will be a tourist destination for the
15 world's nuclear scientists and engineers. Chernobyl is
16 now a tourist destination. I didn't speak up when you
17 people were talking.

18 In the last 30 years, we have completed 2,700
19 shipments of spent nuclear fuel safely by both
20 government and private industry worldwide. More than

21 70,000 metric tons have been transported in 20,000
22 casks. Where were the accidents? A cask is an anvil
23 that surrounds the material contained within it.

24 As responsible citizens, we must think beyond
25 local politics and misrepresentations. Spent nuclear
1 fuel material is a national responsibility and growing
2 on a worldwide scale, whether we like it or not.
3 America must participate in the transportation and
4 storage technology as an expanded scientific resolution
5 to these challenges.

6 The construction of a railroad system alone
7 for Yucca Mountain is a billion dollar project, an
8 opportunity to diversify Nevada's economy. Technical
9 construction employment will fuel better gaming
10 proceeds. That's what you want to hear. It will. Cash
11 flow.

12 The DOE indicates that a rail shipment method
13 is the quickest and most preferred transportation
14 scenario. I agree with this choice, and I urge Nevada
15 citizens to support approval funding and construction of
16 this railroad as soon as possible. Do it. Get it done
17 yesterday.

18 Nevada politicians and other groups in Nevada
19 have opposed the nuclear repository for reasons other
20 than pure science. Don't let these misrepresentations
21 and political innuendos misguide your logic. Empower
22 yourself with the sufficient knowledge to make logical
23 decisions about the Yucca Mountain project.

24 Every day they roadblock this project. It's

25 costing us a technology future in this state. The media
1 has not provided equal time to proponents of nuclear
2 energy or the Yucca Mountain Repository. This
3 propagates a misleading representation of the issues to
4 Nevada's citizens.

5 Opposition to this 20-plus year study of
6 Yucca Mountain defies logic in my mind. We challenge
7 any opposing people to prove the instability of
8 Yucca Mountain as a nuclear repository to the majority
9 of scientists who have proven it is the best repository
10 location choice for America's nuclear spent material.

11 We have a dire need worldwide to reduce our
12 carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Nuclear is the
13 answer to large-scale emission-free energy production.
14 We need to extend the operating licenses for our nuclear
15 plants and move them to the spent nuclear fuel
16 Yucca Mountain site.

17 Our government and the media are not telling
18 you that within 30 years, current designs of fourth
19 generation nuclear plants will reprocess up to
20 96 percent of the waste planned for Yucca Mountain,
21 which makes it an energy gold mine.

22 We welcome discussion from Yucca Mountain --
23 from anti-Yucca Mountain supporters willing to review
24 logical resolutions to questions. I thank you for your
25 opportunity. Further information can be found on our
1 Website at USNuclearEnergy.org. The State of Nevada
2 purchases 50 percent of its power from other states. We

3 are not energy independent in the state of Nevada.]