

1 MR. KRAFT: Good  
2 afternoon. And thank you, Holmes, thanks very  
3 much.

4 MR. BROWN: Sure.

5 MR. KRAFT: My appreciation to the  
6 Department of Energy for holding this hearing.

7 This is a very important topic that I know  
8 has received a great deal of interest and  
9 hearings in Nevada have been well attended. A  
10 lot of good information has been collected.

11 [The Nuclear Energy Institute and I, and our  
12 members, support the Yucca Mountain project  
13 fully. We believe the project should go  
14 forward. It is a vital part of an integrated  
15 national strategy for dealing with commercial  
16 used nuclear fuel.

17 That strategy involves a number of  
18 different facilities that we think need to be  
19 developed in the United States. First is a  
20 central interim storage facility, perhaps in  
21 multiple locations. We need to close the  
22 nuclear fuel cycle and begin recycling these

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1 materials for the energy value and for the  
 2 benefits for waste disposal. And for ultimate  
 3 disposal of the byproducts. I can't emphasize  
 4 that enough. There are no fuel cycles that  
 5 are being used, that have been thought of,  
 6 that have been proposed, or that have been  
 7 dreamed of, that do not have a byproduct at  
 8 the end that requires disposal.

9 The repository program has  
 10 improved over the years. I have been  
 11 following this repository program personally  
 12 long before the Nuclear Waste Policy Act was  
 13 enacted in 1982. And I can tell you from  
 14 personal experience how much it has improved.

15 Particularly under the current director, Ward  
 16 Sproat, the program has moved into the nuclear  
 17 culture and the nuclear licensing areas in  
 18 ways that it hadn't in the past. And we think  
 19 they are ready to move forward with the  
 20 license application.

21 The SEIS shows that the annual  
 22 radiation doses to the public near the site

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1 will always be extremely small, comparable to  
 2 what, say, an individual would receive in  
 3 coming cross country on an airplane flight.  
 4 However, an independent analysis conducted by  
 5 the Electric Power Research Institute, shows  
 6 that there is substantial conservatism in the  
 7 DOE analysis, and a repository may perform far  
 8 better than even the low numbers that are  
 9 shown in the new EIS.] ... continued

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10 [As far as transportation goes, we  
 11 are very pleased to see how these  
 12 transportation analyses have turned out. We  
 13 take no particular position one way or another  
 14 on our route selection, although we think that  
 15 the Caliente route, the Caliente corridor, is  
 16 a good one. The fact that the EIS shows that  
 17 the impacts on Nevada are to be small is very  
 18 consistent with industry experience. It is  
 19 consistent with the conclusion of a 2006  
 20 National Academy of Sciences study, and the  
 21 use of dedicated trains is in fact the best  
 22 and most efficient way to move material to

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1 Yucca Mountain.]

2           Going back to the repository  
3 program as a whole, let me conclude by saying  
4 that [we must move this program, this project,  
5 into the licensing phase. Opponents of the  
6 project, and even supporters of the project,  
7 have raised numerous questions about the  
8 project, about the science, about the  
9 engineering. And the only way -- the only way  
10 -- those questions can be answered, is in the  
11 NRC review and the following adjudicatory  
12 proceedings that will occur in front of NRC  
13 review boards, and ultimately the courts will  
14 get involved, I am sure.

15           We need to move this program into  
16 the licensing phase, begin answering these  
17 questions and getting on with the program.  
18 Thank you very much.]

19           MR. BROWN: Okay, thanks Steve.  
20 Okay, David Blee is next, to be followed by  
21 Gary Hollis, and then Jim Hall.

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