

1 MR. BLEE: Good afternoon. [I'm 1
2 pleased to offer a statement today on behalf
3 of the US Transport Council. We have offered
4 statements at the Hawthorne meeting, which was
5 the first meeting, and at the Reno meeting on
6 the 19th of November. And we're delighted to
7 be here today to speak to the various NEPA
8 documents in question today. In terms of the
9 USTC, it is a not-for-profit, non-lobbying
10 organization comprised of approximately thirty
11 nuclear materials transporters, customers, and
12 associated industries.

13 One of the attributes about the
14 USTC is the depth of experience of its
15 members, who represent the who's who of the
16 transportation industry. Collectively, the
17 USTC's members have already transported more
18 spent fuel safely and securely than is
19 currently earmarked for Yucca Mountain. Our
20 mission is to preserve, protect, and defend
21 the safe and secure commerce of nuclear
22 materials through education, public awareness,

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1 and consensus building. We do so by letting
2 the facts speak for themselves, and by
3 reminding Americans of the important benefits
4 derived from nuclear energy with regard to
5 economics, competitiveness, energy and
6 national security, and environmental progress.

7 And when you're coming to facts,
8 there are a lot of facts in the EIS. And we
9 are pleased to offer some general observations
10 regarding the draft repository SEIS, draft
11 Nevada corridor SEIS, and draft rail alignment
12 EIS relevant to Yucca Mountain. It is our
13 intent to submit final comments in writing on
14 or before the conclusion of the public comment
15 period on January 10th, 2008.

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

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1 the site via the Nevada rail corridor and by
2 truck. Based on our review to date, the
3 document appears to be thorough and
4 comprehensive, and believe the Department has
5 successfully crossed the T's and dotted the
6 I's with respect to laying the groundwork for
7 submittal of a license application for Yucca
8 Mountain.

9 USTC believes the proposed
10 transport aging disposal system, the so-called
11 TAD, offers a sound fuel management paradigm,
12 and provides important linkage to almost all
13 of the more than 120 interim storage sites
14 around the country. The public can also have
15 full confidence in the fact that nuclear
16 materials can be transported safely and
17 securely to Yucca Mountain. This past year,
18 the National Academies completed a nearly
19 three year study of the viability of a
20 national transportation campaign to Yucca
21 Mountain.

22 The National Academies' report

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1 concluded that there are "no fundamental
2 barriers to the safe transport of spent fuel
3 and high-level radioactive waste in the United
4 States." There are numerous reasons for this
5 conclusion, including the tested experience of
6 the transport industry, the robustness of the
7 transport package, and the proven track record
8 of the regulatory oversight provided by the US
9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, US Department
10 of Transportation, and the states themselves,
11 in assuring the highest standard of safety,
12 security, and emergency preparedness.]

13 In closing, the USTC has made a
14 special effort to reach out to stakeholders
15 across the nation on transportation issues.
16 We believe that these issues are important.
17 We believe we bring important, tested
18 experience to these discussions. And we are,
19 of course, stakeholders as well in this
20 process. Thank you very much.

21 MR. BROWN: Okay, thanks David.
22 Gary Hollis is next, to be followed by Jim

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Hall, and then Daniel Deakhouse

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