

1 MR. FELLOWS: [I came down here to testify in
2 support of, for one thing, extending the
3 comment period for this, because I think that
4 this is such an important issue that really
5 deserves the longest possible comment period
6 time that is possible. I'm certain that
7 there's a lot of people, for example, today,
8 that would have wanted to be here and were not
9 able to. I think the comment period is an
10 exceptionally important part of this process,
11 especially given the half-life and length of
12 time of nuclear waste. I mean, we're talking
13 about tens of thousands of years.]... *continued*

2 14 [From a water perspective, we're
15 troubled by the fact that they're really
16 talking about a site that it doesn't seem the
17 Department of Energy has been able to identify
18 as a very sustainable, suitable site in the
19 period so far. If they do do the license this
20 year before June or whenever the deadline is
21 for the license to be applied for, it seems

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1 like that's a somewhat arbitrary deadline that
2 they're going for. And one of the concerns we
3 have is that there's an effort being made to
4 have this get done before the end of the Bush
5 administration, which is fairly pro-nuclear
6 and doesn't seem as concerned about the waste
7 issue as the next administration may be.

8 It's no surprise that the people
9 of Nevada are not happy with the selection of
10 the Yucca site. And that doesn't take into
11 consideration the heightened risk of
12 transporting radioactive waste throughout the
13 United States and all the states that they
14 would have to take it through. I'm the
15 Chesapeake program director, and we have
16 actually talked of expanding the nuclear
17 facilities at Calvert Cliffs and Lake Anna.
18 Part of the reason for the desire to do that
19 is a positive one, to address the global
20 warming issue.

21 But one of things I think also is
22 they're taking advantage of the climate change

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1 concern to rush a restart of nuclear, which
2 there has not been a successful opening of a
3 nuclear plant since Three Mile Island. And
4 certainly Lake Anna and Calvert Cliffs pose
5 dangers for the waterways nearby, if nothing
6 else, thermal pollution. Certainly the risk
7 of something going wrong at either of those
8 sites would clearly be catastrophic.

9 And in our region, Chesapeake
10 Program for Clean Water Action, which is a
11 national organization, began with organizing
12 to stop radioactive waste being dumped in the
13 Susquehanna River after Three Mile Island in
14 the seventies. The many reasons to store
15 nuclear waste on site where it is being
16 generated -- for one thing, it is to slow the
17 idea of creating more nuclear until there is
18 safe storage. But also, as I'm sure you know,
19 even if they transport all the nuclear waste
20 to Yucca Mountain, they're still going to have
21 to store some nuclear material at each of the
22 sites that are generating it, so you're not

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1 cleaning up the sites, you're just expanding
2 the number of risk potential sites in the
3 United States.

4 So our concerns with Clean Water
5 Action are for the immediate waterways
6 surrounding the nuclear sites, the ground
7 water and other waterways of Nevada that would
8 be affected by Yucca. But also the risk
9 factor to communities throughout the United
10 States, and if there's any spillage or any
11 kind of an incident, whether it's intentional
12 or not, it'd obviously be catastrophic because
13 of the long lasting life of radioactive waste.

14 Finally, since September 11th,
15 Clean Water Action has been part of Safe
16 Hometowns Initiative, and it attempts to get
17 real chemical and toxic security in the United
18 States. And we feel that in the wake of
19 September 11th, there certainly should be a
20 concern of expanding any kind of development
21 or use of nuclear power either in this country
22 or anywhere in the United States, because of

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1 the relationship to the possibility of
2 enriching uranium, getting nuclear material
3 into the hands of the wrong people and
4 creating a dirty bomb or do something that
5 would be catastrophic by intentional, not just
6 an accident like Three Mile or Chernobyl.]

7 And so for those reasons, we
8 wanted to comment today, but again, I want to
9 close with that I hope that the comment period
10 continues. I'm grateful that we're having the
11 opportunity to testify here today.

12 MS. DESELL: I have a question. Do
13 you have a particular length or period of time
14 that you would like to see the comment period
15 extended?

16 MR. FELLOWS: Yes, [I would say at
17 least sixty days. I mean, if we're talking
18 about a mid-June deadline for the licensing
19 application to be filed, six months obviously
20 would be too long for that. But I think given
21 the long life of the decision making of this
22 process, I mean, I really would think that six

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... |
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1 months would be more the kind of thing that we
2 would be asking for. But I also understand if
3 it's related to the license application being
4 filed, then six months might not be possible.]

5 MS. DESELL: Thank you.

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