

I used to work at the Nevada Test Site, I'm a retired electrician and a small business owner here in southern Nevada.

I've toured Yucca Mountain on several occasions and have even toured the San Onofre nuclear power plant in California.

I've attended many meetings of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We could study this project forever, that's what scientists do, they study, we have completed the site characterization of Yucca Mountain. I believe, it's time to move onto the licensing phase.

After 20 years of study and spending \$8 billion on the project I think it's time to allow the experts at the NRC to review the scientific evidence and ask DOE the tough questions related to the site's suitability.

What I do know is the site's environmental issues such as it's remoteness, arid climate, deep water table, and multiple natural barriers made it a good site to review in the first place so I don't really see the need to expand the study on any environmental issues.

I support the shipment of used fuel by rail because that means more fuel and waste can be shipped in fewer shipments than truck. I also support the best in class in emergency response training and equipment for the communities along the rail corridor.

I support the transport, aging and disposal canister system (TAD) because I'm a common sense type of guy and any system that reduces waste handling is ok by me.

There have been more than 3,000 safe used fuel shipments in the U.S., covering over 1.7 million highway, rail and barge miles. In all of those shipments, no injury has ever resulted from a release of radiation. International experience shipping used fuel is even more extensive and has been just as safe.

I support DOE fully funding the site infrastructure facility plan. DOE's plan for a fuel handling facility is part of a comprehensive, researched approach for building a safe and efficient repository

We need a geologic repository, 20% of our great country's electricity comes from nuclear power plants and right here in Nevada we benefit from the power we get off the grid from the Palo Verde nuclear power station in neighboring Arizona.

I appreciate informational meetings like this to talk to experts and opportunities to comment like this are all well and good but it's time for progress and time to move this program forward. My union brothers and sisters stand ready to build and manage the repository if the NRC grants DOE the licenses to build and operate a repository at Yucca Mountain.

Sincerely,

Bill Vasconi

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