

MR. KELLY: Hello. My name is Michael Kelly. And I'm a retired Air Force Officer. I was in the United States Air Force from 1972 until 2006. But currently, I have no employment and I'm retired from active duty.

I'm interested in the part of the Yucca Mountain Program that concerns moving the radioactive spent fuel from its current locations to Nevada. And I would like to call the attention of the Project Managers to a program that the Air Force ran a number of years ago.

At that time, we were looking at basing intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) with nuclear warheads on railroad cars. And the program was specifically called Peacekeeper Rail Garrison. And part of that program was something called Preservation of Location Uncertainty. And Preservation of Location Uncertainty was to deny our adversaries the ability to sabotage those trains.

I think the similar concern exists for the transportation of spent fuel. We want to reduce the probability of sabotage to those trains under the mostly train method. So, what I would urge the Project Managers to do is to contact the Air Force and try and find the records on the Peacekeeper Rail Garrison Preservation of Location Uncertainty, and review those and find whatever lessons learned or analogies would transfer over to the problem of the spent fuel transportation. And then, incorporate those lessons accordingly.

In particular, how the Government would interact with the private rail dispatch function and making sure that the dispatch function had enough information to safely do their job to move the trains around, including the trains that were not of specific Government interest.

But we also need to make sure that we would deny any potential terrorist an easy way to get information that would make it easier for them to target these trains.

The second part of my comment is related to another part of my military background. And I actually did targeting for the Air Force. And we always found it to be much more difficult to hit a moving target than to hit a fixed target. And at fixed target, we found it much more difficult to hit a deep underground target than an above ground soft target.

And therefore, the overall plan that we're talking about here in moving spent fuel from its current storage locations, many of which are fixed above ground, fairly well known, to a deep underground facility, I think that's exactly what you would do to make it more difficult for them to target.

And the folks that criticize these efforts, as far as the transportation methods, don't realize the difficulties there are in targeting a moving object. That is something that is not easy to do. And it's probably beyond the means of all but the most sophisticated terrorist.

So I would urge the Government to continue to try and implement the Yucca Mountain Project. I would urge the Government to continue to plan to move the spent fuel on rail cars in very sturdy containers, as has been proposed. And I would further urge the Project Managers to look at similar efforts that have taken place in the past to prevent sabotage of rail movements of nuclear materials.

And of course, in the Air Force's case, there are nuclear materials that are protected specifically by the Atomic Energy Act and by restricted data provisions, which may or may not apply to the spent fuel moves that we're talking about here.

And the last thing that I would like to say is that we do need to look at the next phase of this. The current legislated capacity of Yucca Mountain is insufficient for the long term energy needs of this country. And unless there's a dramatic breakthrough and a completely alternative technology or some dramatic change in conservation, we're going to need to have a repository for additional thousands of metric tons of spent fuel.

And so I would urge the Government to proceed with getting on with the next phase, whether that's enlarging Yucca Mountain, or finding another site or something. But we need to find additional storage that's as well protected as Yucca Mountain. And I would say that another deep underground site or enlarging the deep underground site at Yucca Mountain is what needs to be done.

That concludes my statement.

MS. DESELL: Thank you, very much, Mr. Kelly.

MR. KELLY: Okay.

MS. DESELL: You made some very good points. Thank you.

MR. KELLY: Okay. Well thank you for taking the time to listen.

MS. DESELL: It's always good to hear from people. It is.