

11 EDD PATALANO: I was just wondering about
12 the rock encasement. Again, I'm from back East, and
13 we don't really pay that much attention to it, but I
14 follow it. Originally I thought it was going to be
15 encased in concrete, and it's just going to be
16 encased in rock.

17 And my concern is that the rapid
18 development that is going on and we talk about
19 isotopes and uranium and the half-life of the
20 radiation is ten, 15, 20,000, 50,000 years. And with
21 all the development going on and expansion, I know
22 the geologists, they're saying that the rocks have no
23 fissures right now, but the earth is constantly
24 moving.

25 This area is constantly moving. It's a

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1 dynamic world, and the plates are constantly moving.
2 You're doing constant development and draining water,
3 and we need more water for this area. Particularly
4 the Las Vegas, Pahrump areas are growing rapidly.
5 It's expanding towards Yucca Mountain, and by
6 draining all the water, there has to be more
7 resources for water.

8 And by tapping more water out,
9 experiencing all the areas back East, in particular,
10 the sinkholes were created by draining water.
11 Draining water out of a project or out of anything
12 creates voids, and those voids have to be filled with

Untitled

13 something.

14 So my feeling is that even though it is
15 solid rock, I don't know the depth of the rock or the
16 expansion of the rock. But by creating voids
17 underneath and around it, the rock is going to start
18 cracking, and going to create fissures. To me, that
19 is the biggest concern, is that -- is that putting
20 this so close to basic civilization -- Las Vegas is
21 only 100 miles away from it. Pahrump is less than 60
22 miles, 70 miles to Yucca Mountain. Both areas are
23 expanding rapidly, and one of the concerns would be
24 the rock cracking, creating fissures.

25 I thought that the rock -- that the

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1 uranium, whatever, the waste would be encased in
2 concrete or -- I forgot your name. Like Chuck
3 indicated, the concrete does have contaminants and
4 creates deterioration to things, but other sources of
5 encasement probably should be kept in mind.

6 I was telling Chuck, I personally feel
7 that we should develop other sources of energy prior
8 to the nuclear. We have water, we have ocean, we
9 have wind, we have solar, geothermal. The nuclear
10 here, it -- I think they should look into the rock
11 encasement a little bit more so -- and do some
12 modelling about what's going to happen when the water
13 is taken out of the ground and creating the voids,
14 which is going to cause the rock to move it -- the
15 rock to start expanding and causing cracks.