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**EIS000298**

23                   MR. YOUNG: Thank you very much. My name is  
24                   Bob Young. I'm the mayor of the consolidated  
25                   government of Augusta/Richmond County, Georgia.

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1 We're a city of about 204,000, metro area 450,  
2 region of about a million people. The region is  
3 also host to the Savannah River nuclear site, two  
4 generating plants, and nuclear Plant Vogel. We  
5 also host the low-level dump in Barnwell, South  
6 Carolina. For 50 years our city has been a  
7 neighbor of the nuclear industry. We have lived  
8 together in a mutually cooperative way. We have  
9 taken the government at its word that we would not  
10 host long-term storage of high-level waste and  
11 spent fuel. The Draft EIS for Yucca Mountain  
12 affords the government the opportunity to keep it  
13 word to the people of Augusta, Georgia. I will  
14 limit my remarks specifically to the site and to  
15 the transportation issue tonight, in view of time.

16 I brought with me, quite appropriately, a  
17 piece of Yucca Mountain. I was out there this  
18 summer and took a look at it. I went inside and  
19 went on top of it. Yucca Mountain is the most  
20 extensively studied piece of rock in the world.  
21 The findings of the EIS are based on an  
22 extraordinary body of scientific data. DOE has  
23 concluded, and rightfully so, in my opinion, that  
24 it will be more harmful to leave spent fuel at  
25 nuclear plant sites, especially if effective long-

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1 term regulatory controls cannot be maintained, for  
2 thousands of years after the plants have shut  
3 down. There is a tremendous cost savings, as we  
4 heard earlier. [ Using engineered and natural  
5 barriers, the Yucca Mountain repository will  
6 protect public health and safety and the  
7 environment for thousands of years. The science  
8 is sound and meets the tests set by the EPA and  
9 the NRC.]

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10 I want to talk a bit about transport of  
11 nuclear waste because we have shipments of waste  
12 routinely passing through residential and  
13 commercial areas of Augusta, Georgia, and Aiken,  
14 South Carolina. [ Much has been made of the  
15 potential dangers of shipping spent nuclear fuel.  
16 During the past 30 years nearly 30,000 shipments  
17 of spent nuclear fuel have been moved safely, and  
18 during the same time nearly 700 shipments of U.S.  
19 Navy spent nuclear fuel have traveled without  
20 incident. Although we have not yet begun to ship  
21 any canisters of vitrified waste, these canisters  
22 will be shipped and transported in specialized  
23 containers similar to those used for shipping  
24 spent fuel. Spent fuel travels in robust  
25 containers designed specifically to withstand the

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1 extreme accident conditions such as fire, train  
2 collision and highway crash.

3 Nuclear energy supplies at least 30 percent  
4 of the electricity generated in Georgia.  
5 Nationally, nuclear power accounts for about 20  
6 percent of the electricity production. There are  
7 over 1,300 tons of spent nuclear fuel stored at  
8 two commercial nuclear plants: the Edwin Hatch  
9 plants I and II at Baxley, Georgia, and the Vogel  
10 plants I and II in Waynesboro, Georgia, operated  
11 by Southern Nuclear Operating Company.

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12 Electricity consumers in the state of Georgia  
13 have paid over \$516 million into the Nuclear Waste  
14 Fund. Delays in the federal repository program  
15 have had a direct impact here in Georgia. The  
16 Edwin Hatch nuclear plant in Baxley will soon run  
17 out of space in its spent nuclear fuel pool. The  
18 plant must build metal containers to expand the  
19 storage capabilities at an additional expense to  
20 consumers.

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21 So I'd like to say in summary that the Draft  
22 EIS, to me, reinforces the scientific consensus  
23 that a geologic repository is the best way to  
24 safely isolate used nuclear fuel and nuclear  
25 byproducts from U.S. defense programs. I think we

1 can all agree that, indeed, there is no perfect  
2 place in the United States for long-term storage,  
3 but the Draft EIS confirms that Yucca Mountain is  
4 the best place. Thank you.

5 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

6 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, sir. Our next speaker  
7 is Robert Halstead, who will be followed by John  
8 Dewes and Ken Good.