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22 MR. WELLS: Good evening. My name's Pete
23 Wells. I'm the general manager of Plant Edwin I.
24 Hatch, a nuclear facility at Baxley, Georgia. I'm
25 a graduate of Georgia Tech with a nuclear

1 engineering degree. I have over 20 years of
2 nuclear experience in the nuclear field, both in
3 the commercial nuclear industry and the U.S. Naval
4 nuclear power program. I'm also a registered
5 professional engineer.
6 For over 20 years, Plant Hatch has been
7 generating safe, economical, environmentally
8 friendly electricity for the citizens of Georgia.
9 When Plant Hatch was built in the early '70s, it
10 was capable of handling about 20 years of spent
11 nuclear fuel. The idea was that within 20 years
12 we'd have a permanent solution for our spent
13 nuclear fuel, be it retrievable storage, permanent
14 storage or even recycling of our spent nuclear
15 fuel. Plant Hatch, as I said earlier, has been
16 generating electricity for over 20 years. Our
17 spent fuel pools are just about full. In fact,
18 next year we're going to run out of space in our
19 spent nuclear -- in our spent fuel pool.
20 3... In the years that Plant Hatch has been
21 generating electricity, the citizens of Georgia
22 have spent over $500 million and paid over $50
23 million into the Nuclear Waste Fund. As you all
24 probably know, the Nuclear Waste Fund was put in
25 with the Nuclear Waste Act, Nuclear Waste Policy

3 cont.

Act, that required the government to take possession of utilities' spent nuclear fuel by 1998. The government has missed its contractual obligation to take its fuel, and so therefore we have had to react and cause the citizens of Georgia to expend additional money above and beyond what they've already spent. Right now we don't think the government's going to start taking fuel till 2010. If you look at the nationwide figure, it's over $16 billion in the spent nuclear fuel fund. This delay has required us to spend an additional $22 million to build an interim spent fuel storage at Plant Hatch. An additional $4 million a year will be spent until the government starts taking possession of our fuel. This money is being paid by the rate payers of Georgia in addition to the money already spent.

Our facility will be well designed and it will be safe, but it makes sense to have a centrally located repository for spent nuclear fuel so that you can design additional safety and security barriers. This not only enhances the overall safety of the nation's spent nuclear fuel, but it's much more economical, as several speakers have said, the savings being in the multi-billion

1 3 cont. to several-trillion dollar range.

2 1 Yucca Mountain is one of the most heavily
3 studied pieces of geologic sites in the world, and
4 the findings of the environmental impact statement
5 support moving forward with this project. There
6 is no scientific reason for the government not to
7 take its contractual obligation to start taking
8 spent fuel. The reasonable approach is for our
9 generation, that generation that has used the
10 electricity produced by nuclear power, to take
11 responsibility right now instead of delaying it
12 for future generations. A central repository is
13 far safer than storing it in 36 different states.
14 4 Using engineered and natural barriers, Yucca
15 Mountain will protect the health and safety of the
16 public for many, many years.

17 2... Retrievable storage is an essential part of
18 our national energy policy. Nationwide, nuclear
19 power generates over 20 percent of our
20 electricity. The issue here is not to make more
21 space in my spent fuel pool so I can generate
22 electricity. We will continue to generate
23 electricity using nuclear power for a variety of
24 reasons, both strategic and economic and
25 environmental. Nuclear power is currently the

2 cont.

1 only large-scale, central power generation
2 available that does not use fossil fuel. In the
3 future, as our gas supplies dwindle, we need to
4 have more options. Central-repository retrievable
5 storage allows us those options.

5...

6 Another issue that has undergone much
7 discussion is that of transportation. As Mayor
8 Young just said, there have been over 3,000
9 shipments of spent nuclear fuel in the last 30
10 years without any sort of safety problems. The
11 additional 700 shipments of Navy nuclear fuel have
12 gone without incident. They do travel in
13 containers specifically designed to withstand
14 significant extreme accidents on the highway, both
15 fires, locomotive accidents or highway crashes.
16 In addition, the Georgia Legislature has spent our
17 citizens' money to ensure that we have well
18 trained enforcement and emergency response people
19 in case of any sort of hazardous materials
20 accident within the state. Our regulators here in
21 Georgia will oversee the transportation of spent
22 nuclear fuel to ensure that public safety is
23 paramount.
24 MR. LAWSON: You've got 30 seconds, please,
25 sir.

5 cont. 1 MR. GOAD: Okay. It's also our duty to ensure
2 that the public is well educated so that they can
3 react to the facts, not just the fears of this
1 cont. 4 issue. It clearly makes sense for the citizens of
5 this state and our nation to go forward with Yucca
6 Mountain. There's scientific evidence that that's
7 just the right thing to do.
8 MS. SWEENEY: Thank you.

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