

RECEIVED

OCT 21 1999

EIS000307

6 MR. HOFFMAN: My name is Ed Hoffman, and I'm a  
7 graduate student at Georgia Tech. I've come here  
8 to just make a few comments. I've been kind of  
9 debating right up until the last moment, you know,  
10 what I was going to talk about. There's, you know,  
11 so many different comments I would like to make;  
12 and, you know, five minutes' time is not long.

1... 13 The first comment I'd like to make is about  
14 the alternative, that they even said it's not a  
15 realistic alternative. The waste exists, you  
16 know, and leaving it sit there forever is not an  
17 alternative. It will be disposed of somewhere, at  
18 some time, and that will be in a repository. I  
19 don't see any way that sea beds would be an  
20 option; that brings in international and other  
21 problems even more difficult than the political  
22 problems we've had well within our borders. So it  
23 will be disposed of somewhere, at some time, in a  
24 repository. And, as with any difficult job,  
25 there's no time like the present to get started.

!

1...

1 And it's time to get started.

2 I've been to Yucca Mountain myself, as a  
3 couple other people have been. It's a long bus  
4 ride out through the desert, out to basically a  
5 big hole in the middle of nowhere. And I've been  
6 fortunate; I've lived, traveled, vacationed and  
7 worked all over this country, just about from  
1... 8 corner to corner. And as one of the other  
9 speakers said, there isn't a perfect place, as  
10 there is no perfect place to build a dump of any  
11 kind. But Yucca Mountain is probably about as  
12 good as you're going to find for any type of  
13 disposal facility.

14 In addition to that, DOE should proceed as  
15 expeditiously as they can to fulfill their  
16 commitments. The government has been collecting  
17 money from the waste fund, and we've cited  
18 specific amounts of money people have mentioned.  
19 And they have this commitment to take this waste.  
20 As a result, they should. They have a perfectly  
21 good site that's well studied, well characterized.  
22 And as much as any site can be shown to, it's been  
23 shown that it's a good place to put the waste.

24 Some other comments people had, just things  
25 I've added at the last second: People asked, you

1 know, would you leave your family there?  
2 Absolutely; I would have no problem living on the  
3 border of this nuclear facility or any other  
4 nuclear facility. In fact, I've lived in various  
5 nuclear communities around the country. I'm from  
6 Pennsylvania, upstream of Three Mile Island about  
7 two hours, so I know people in the area. My  
8 father's worked in that area. And I'm not sure  
9 what the one individual case of brain cancer  
10 really had to do with Three Mile Island other than  
11 the location. But from where I'm from, it's the  
12 coal regions. And you go out to the coal regions  
13 --And people are talking about "It's about the  
14 health and the people." Well, go out to these  
15 communities. In these communities alcoholism and  
16 all kinds of other problems are much more  
17 prevalent than in any of the nuclear communities  
18 I've ever seen. They have high cancer rates  
19 because of the low quality of life and all these  
20 other things, so this is going to be plagued with  
21 any other facilities or whatever. But I would  
22 have no problem.

23 The other thing people mentioned, that this  
24 is a disaster waiting to happen -- And I'm not  
25 sure what they think would happen if a waste were

1 in fact to crack. In the small town I'm from,  
2 about four or five years ago a cement truck and a  
3 gasoline truck collided. The gasoline truck broke  
4 open, leaked fuel. And fortunately, our little  
5 community -- God was smiling on us that day.  
6 Somehow, the gasoline did not catch on fire. Had  
7 that happened, it would have burned down a  
8 significant portion of our very old, very close-  
9 knit community. Had this been a nuclear accident,  
10 sure, they would have been exposed to some  
11 radiation. It's highly inconceivable that anybody  
12 would have died directly as a result of the  
13 accident, other than probably the truck driver.  
14 And sure, they would have had a slight increased  
15 risk of cancer just as all of you who have gone  
16 and had X-rays, you know, based on the linear node  
17 threshold, when you go to get an X-ray,  
18 whether it's to get your tooth X-rayed for  
19 cavities or a broken bone, it has a slight  
20 increase. But, you know, you walk out and nothing  
21 ill effect happens in the short term.

22 So, you know, we have to make trade offs, and  
23 I think this is one of the safest; that's been  
24 shown by the record, you know. They talk about  
25 the 3,000 shipments. But even if the worst, God

1 forbid, would happen, it still would not be a  
2 disaster in the grand scheme of things.

3 MR. LAWSON: Thirty seconds.

1 4 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. And just to conclude, I'd  
5 like to urge DOE to proceed with Yucca Mountain  
6 repository at this time. If DOE, you know,  
7 continues to be plagued with delays -- this  
8 program is far beyond when it was scheduled. If  
9 they continue to be plagued with delays, I would  
10 hope that they would at least take the  
11 responsibility to develop a central storage  
12 facility to begin alleviating the utilities of  
13 their burdens. Since they have already paid for  
14 this service, I believe that it's time that they  
15 received the service they have paid for. Thanks.

16                   MR. LAWSON: Is Bob Fulkerson here? I don't  
17 believe he is. Okay, then our next speaker would  
18 be Ernie Chaput, to be followed by Susan Alzner  
19 and Mary Olsen.

6