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OCT 21 1999

5 MR. COLLINS: I'm Kevin Collins. I'm a
6 radiation worker at a nuclear facility and have
7 been for 20 years. And for the record, I'd like
8 for you people to know that I'm bald. And I want
9 you to know that I have an older brother and a
10 younger brother who are also bald, for the record,
11 as well. Both of those brothers are non-nuclear
2 12 workers. Okay? And I wanted to note that I
13 believe nuclear power is very beneficial to this
14 country, and I believe the electric utilities try
15 to live up to that responsibility. For years
16 they've delivered a service to us day after day.
17 We can count on the electricity being there. Part
18 of the way that we count on the electricity is
19 through nuclear power. They built these plants
20 years ago as a commitment to us. They're trying
21 to live up to their commitment.
22 And what I see tonight -- this is the first
23 time I've ever been to one of these. But I see
24 that the big issue is risk versus benefit. What
25 risk do we have versus the benefit that is given?

1 And I see that we cannot take the risk away 100
2 percent. There's always going to be some risk.
3 We could argue and make things better. And I
4 think that's what we're all here for, to make
5 things better in whatever way we can. But let me
6 give you another side of the coin.
7 Assume there was no nuclear energy, assume
8 there was no nuclear power, assume that we never
9 had this issue. Assume that we could take it away
10 today. What situation would we put ourselves in?
11 What increased risk would we have? Air travel:
12 you know, some people don't understand that when
13 you take a plane flight you get more background
14 radiation. People talk about the background from
15 these trains going by, but they don't talk about
16 the background when you take an airline flight.
17 They don't talk about the background when they go
18 up on a mountain, being higher. They don't talk
19 about the background being higher when they're at
20 Yucca Mountain, just due to being closer to the
21 cosmos. How come they don't complain or argue
22 about that or be concerned about that? It is
23 increased background. How come people don't
24 complain when you get a broken bone and the doctor
25 gives you an X-ray? Or they think they have

1 pneumonia and they go to get an X-ray? They say,
2 give it to me because there's a risk there but
3 it's a benefit; it's a benefit to them at that
4 time. How many of you would say, "No, I don't
5 want the X-ray, give me the pneumonia, let me die
6 within a matter of a couple days, I don't even
7 want to know about it, we won't even -- we
8 wouldn't want to consider that"?
9 Radiation treatments: I have an older sister
10 right now; she's in her late 40s. She has breast
11 cancer. She's undergoing radiation treatments.
12 And would I want to say, "Linda, don't undergo
13 your radiation treatment because radiation does
14 cause damage to you"? I wouldn't want that. I
15 understand there's a risk, but she's reaping the
16 benefit of that. I have a mother that lives at
17 home. She's 71 years old. Would I want them to
18 turn off the electricity 20 percent of the time
19 so, in the winter, that she freezes? She's in a
20 house all by herself. Would I want that? The
21 answer is no, I wouldn't; I wouldn't want her to
22 undergo that risk.
23 Radioactivity in the air: do you know that
24 if you burn coal there's more radioactivity that
25 gets in the air from nuclear -- than from nuclear

1 power? A lot of people don't realize that; they
2 don't consider that risk. Let's go to something
3 other than nuclear power, let's put more
4 radioactivity in the air, not to mention the
5 carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, the smog. And
6 how would you like to be breathing worse air? I
7 thought we were better off today than we were in
8 the '70s when we had all these problems.
9 More lung cancer: the more we burn coal,
10 fossil fuels, the more radon gets in the air, the
11 more lung cancer goes up. The more they mine coal,
12 the more lung cancer goes up for those miners.
13 Talk about putting workers at risk.
14 Chemicals: do you know all the new chemicals
15 that they make today they put radioactive tracers
16 in, they put carbon-14 and tritium on? In the
17 wonder drugs that you get today, they're only
18 possible because they put radioactive tracers on
19 them. If you say no more radioactive material,
20 those go away. You could forget about any new
21 drugs, you could forget about any new chemicals.
22 They'd all go away.
23 More house fires: How many of you would
24 sacrifice your smoke detector, just throw it out,
25 say "I don't need it"? Did you know there's

1 radioactive sources in smoke detectors? Would you
2 like to take the risk and say that "No, I don't
3 need them any more"?
4 Electricity: 20 percent of the time it's
5 going away. Nuclear power plants have had the
6 responsibility to give us a service. They have
7 done that service. They're in a situation right
8 now where they have some radioactive material that
9 they need to get rid of. The question is, how can
10 we get rid of it as safely as we can? There's no
11 arguing it's there. We can't say it's not there.
12 We have to deal with it. We can't say, "Do away
13 with nuclear power" unless you want to shut all
14 the lights off. Do you understand the risks that
15 you're taking? And there are some. You bring the
16 argument to this podium, and you are not. So
17 consider that. I'm not saying that to argue with
18 you; I'm just saying that there's another side to
19 the coin. I'm a little bit emotional now because
20 this is the first time I've been to something like
21 this. But I've seen the other side intellectually,
22 and I also know what it would mean to give it all
23 up.
24 I just say let's do it safely. Let's proceed
1
25 with Yucca Mountain. Let's do it safely, as

1 safely as we can. Let's hear the arguments, but
2 make sure we do it safely. Thank you.
3 MR. LAWSON: We've got Mary Olsen and Susan
4 Alzner.

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