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MR. KAMPS: Hello. My name is Kevin Kamps, and I'll probably address the audience too, I guess, or everybody in the room.

My name is Kevin Kamps and I work with Nuclear Information and Resource Service in Washington, D.C. We're a networking information center for communities across the country who live near nuclear power plants or radioactive waste dumps and are concerned about these issues.

I spoke in Nevada and covered a lot of things there. I think I'm going to speak about some different things here, mostly based upon what I've heard said today by some of the speakers who went before.

One of the speakers, and I'm not going to remember people's names, but he represented GPU. I'm not sure what your name is. But he said that there's been a lot of experience with these shipments in the past and overseas as well. And that's one of the things I'd like to talk about is that history.

And what I have here is our newsletter. It's from March of 1997. And it's about the German experience of trying to transport high-level nuclear waste. And for those of you who can't read it, I'll read it, the cover here. It says, "6 casks, 173 injured, 500 arrested, 20,000 protesters, 30,000 police, 100 million dollars. What price the atomic state?" And the images here are two of the casks, and the image down here is the crowd of protesters trying to block the shipment. And this is a water cannon that was used to clear as many people away as they could.

And there's incredible stories from Germany from this. This was the second to last shipment that was attempted in Germany. There was one more shipment after this. Based on this experience, the German government tried to sneak a second -- the second shipment through later. What they did is they announced the day for the shipment and then they upped it by a week at the very last minute, and the police were not even told until the very last minute. So there was a scramble to mobilize.

Even with, you know, people were trying to prepare for that later announced date, but even with a week surprise on them, they still turned out three thousand people, I believe it was, and in the process of transporting that shipment there was a police officer killed. He was struck by a train. And I attributed that to the chaos that was created. And that was the very last attempt in Germany to transport this high-level waste.

And I've heard commentators from Germany say that this experience, this one, especially, but the second one, the surprise one as well, had a lot to do with the Green Party's rise to power in Germany, and now there's negotiations underway about the phase-out of nuclear power in Germany.

1 So that's a little bit of experience. In the United States there have been shipments of high-level waste. I've heard the number 2,500 used, I've heard 3,000 used. That number is going to be increased depending on whether train shipments or truck shipments take place. And in the first year or two of the program, that entire experience that has taken place over the last 30 years plus will be equal and surpassed in the first year or two of this program.

So this is an unprecedented high-level waste transport campaign that's being talked about, and it's incredible that this document downplays the significance of that and defers it for the future. We'll think about that later once we lock in the Yucca Mountain repository as the waste site where it's all going to go.

2 And for those folks, I mentioned it during the question and answer at the earlier session, who haven't seen this map before, there's copies on the table, the handout table back here, but this shows the number of shipments bound for Utah, and it's over 14,000. This is the state of Nevada's analysis, because DOE won't admit what routes are going to be used or how many shipments will go down those, so the state of Nevada

took it upon itself to look at that. So 14,000 shipments. It looks like 6,000 truck shipments and 8,000 are train shipments.]

And that's something -- I was on that tour yesterday at Yucca Mountain, and after the tour at the site I went back to the Yucca Mountain project information center, spent some time up there in Las Vegas. And I'm glad I did that, because that gives me some things to talk about today that I didn't really have before I had that experience.

3 The first thing I want to mention before I talk about what happened yesterday was, [I want to talk a little bit about the shipments, because there were speakers who said, this is perfectly safe, we're very confident that there's not going to be any problem; and I just want to talk about what these things represent, because that was something that I found amazing at the Yucca Mountain project information center in Las Vegas.

I went through the whole place looking for a definition of radioactivity or what its significance is, and the closest thing I found was a place where it was talking about the radioactive particles, and there was one sentence that said "radiation can cause changes in human tissue." And that was the closest thing to an admission that there might be health effects associated with radioactivity in the whole Yucca Mountain project information center.]

4 So I found that interesting. And, well, [what is in these casks that will be rolling through Utah? And I'm from Michigan and I've only been in D.C. a few months. I've worked on this issue for over a decade. I lived about 35 miles from the Palisades nuclear plant.

And so this high-level waste, these are the fuel rods that come out of the core of the reactors. They're up to a million times more radioactive coming out than when they went in, and if you were to be within a yard of this stuff -- depends on how long it's been out of the core. If it's just come out of the core, then your lethal exposure could be in a matter of ten seconds; if it's been out for a number of years, your lethal exposure could be in a number of minutes.

So this material needs to be shielded, it needs to be isolated from the environment. Because of the long duration of the hazards of some of the radionuclides, it needs to be isolated from a living environment for hundreds of thousands of years.]

5 [So now at Palisades, which is most of my experience in Michigan, Palisades nuclear plant, they ran out of storage in their storage pool in the early 90's and they turned to the outdoor casks. And that's been six, seven years now, and what a history of problems with these casks.

So when I hear the Department of Energy talk about their confidence in the performance of these casks, whether they're transport casks or repository casks, I'm just really perplexed, because at Palisades the real experience there is that out of 15 casks they're loading, and they're 100 yards from -- 150 yards from the water of Lake Michigan, and they're on a three-foot-thick concrete pad that's not anchored to anything, it's just on the sand, and it's a high erosion area; and what's been the experience of Palisades, it's been that four of the casks have been found to be defective. One of the casks, the fourth cask that was loaded, it was the summer of 1993, and a number of groups with the attorney general of Michigan representing them in court tried to get an injunction against the loading of these casks because there was no clear idea of how they would be safely unloaded. The public sure had no idea. It had not been communicated to them by the power company or by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, so the public sought an injunction against the loading.

Well, the power company, Consumers Energy and -- Consumers Power Company and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in court said that if there's a problem we will simply reverse the process and unload

the casks. They told this to the judge. The judge believed them and blocked the injunction, gave a green light to the unloading of the casks.

A year after that, in the summer of '94, the fourth cask was loaded. A short time later it was found to be defective, and those assurances of immediate unloading, here it is five years later, that cask still sits there fully loaded. The company still says we have a safe unloading procedure; the NRC says, yes, we've seen it and we've approved it. But the public can't know what that procedure is because it's proprietary information. Consumers Energy has invested a lot of money in this and we can't just divulge it because it will be copied and that's -- you know.

So the public still doesn't know what that safe unloading procedure is, and that cask still sits there all these years later. A number of other casks have had faulty welds, and they're fully loaded. Just in the summer of '98, it was in June -- well, I should mention --

MR. BROWN: If you can wrap things up in about two minutes or so.

MR. SKIPPER: Yeah, I'll -- I can see that there's not a ton of speakers here, and we're ahead of schedule and --

MR. BROWN: Well, what I was going to say is that if you want to try to conclude some immediate points in two minutes, we have about four or five other speakers --

MR. KAMPS: Then have me come back up?

MR. BROWN: Yeah, then we can bring you back up. That would be fine.

MR. KAMPS: Okay, I'll do that.

Okay, so we've had a lot of problems with these casks at Palisades. These are storage casks. They're not meant for transport. They travel zero miles per hour. Now we're all gung-ho ready to launch these casks on the highways at 60 plus miles per hour. I just don't have a lot of confidence in this talk.

6 And about the Yucca Mountain site, I do want to say some things about my experience yesterday. I did see the water. It was at the test where the giant heater was heating the rock, and there was water on the floor, water on the walls. This is water in Yucca Mountain that's been driven out of the rock by the heat.

7 Another interesting experience was being on top of the mountain, and in one single spot, because you have a view, a lot of this equipment was nearby. I found it really interesting that all the weather monitoring equipment, the seismographs and other machines up there were solar powered. I really liked that. I thought that was great. And one of the proposals for ventilating Yucca Mountain, because the heat is going to be so intense from the waste is -- or was, I'm not sure if it's still a project proposal, but a solar powered -- the whole mountainside has solar power panels to drive the ventilation system at Yucca Mountain. So it's the world's first solar powered nuclear waste dump.

8 But I looked around and there was a seismograph measuring the earthquakes at the small field office near the mountain. There was a flying buttress that had been built after the '92 earthquake which was 5.6 and damaged that building at the foot of Yucca Mountain. So that seismograph is still up there to keep track of all the earthquake activity.

9 [I saw two trenches where the crystals were found that provide evidence that there could be a danger of the upwelling of superheated water into Yucca Mountain, which would be a disaster. The casks would disintegrated really quickly and then the waste would flow.]

10 [I saw the study locations where the chlorine-36 was found inside the mountain that came in rainwater, was carried all the way from the Pacific ocean where atmospheric nuclear weapons testing had taken place, and in less than 50 years that rainwater had found its way to the depths of Yucca Mountain where the waste would be located.]

11 [I saw the global positioning satellite receptor where in Science magazine a couple years ago the researchers published that the expansion of the crust of Yucca Mountain is an order of magnitude greater than previously believed.]

12 So [as time goes on the evidence is more and more that Yucca Mountain is not going to isolate waste for hundreds of thousands of years. I really -- that 10,000-year cap was interesting. Peak doses are at a
13 hundred thousand years] And [we could see Amargosa Valley in the distance, the farming community downstream of Yucca Mountain where the highest doses will be coming out into the water. People will be drinking that water, using it to irrigate their crops.

And the biomagnification of radioactivity is something that I've experienced in Chernobyl. My wife and I have spent some time over there. We have a lot of friends over there. And to hear them talk about if they only had a Geiger counter they could take it to the marketplace with them, but of course it would be a year's salary to buy that anyway. But that will be the main source of contamination to people downstream Yucca Mountain is the food that they eat will be contaminated with radionuclides.]