

RECEIVED

JAN 28 2000

EIS001556

ALBERT CASTAZNACCI:

Good afternoon. My name is Al Castaznacci. I'm the RAD Waste and Affluent supervisor at the Beaver Valley Power Station in Shippingport, Pennsylvania. In Beaver Valley, I'm responsible for the management of low level radioactive waste that's generated at our station and also the off site radiological environmental monitoring program. Our plant is owned by FirstEnergy of Akron, Ohio and it's operated by it's subsidiary FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company. FirstEnergy serves more than 2.2 million customers that are located in Northern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Besides Beaver Valley, the company owns two other nuclear power plants, the Perry Power Plant, located about 35 miles east of here, and the Davis Besse Power Plant in and near Toledo.

1 We appreciate the opportunity to speak about this important issue before the Department  
of Energy. FirstEnergy supports the Draft Environmental Impact Statement's conclusion. That  
2 building a repository at Yucca Mountain is the safest and most cost effective way to manage used  
nuclear fuel and other greater than class C waste. The Draft EIS is based on sound scientific and  
engineering data, many years of scientific investigation and coupled with 13 years of site  
3 characterization work at Yucca Mountain. We view this as a significant and positive milestone  
towards the industry's goal at moving used fuel and of the high-level waste. FirstEnergy agrees  
that there's a strong likelihood that the health and safety impact of the repository will be zero. It  
is FirstEnergy's belief that leaving used fuel and other high-level waste at 72 nuclear power  
facilities and five DOE sites for 10,000 years as considered in the no action alternatives in the  
report, would be far more expensive or pose greater risk to public health and safety.

3 Dose to the general public, under incident free transportation is minimal. However, while  
the Draft EIS provides an even handed comparison of building a repository versus taking no  
action. The same cannot be said about DOE's assessment of transportation or related impacts. In  
an attempt to consider every possible scenario, DOE has given credence to the virtually  
impossible scenario. For example, the maximum reasonably foreseeable accident scenario  
modeled in the Draft EIS has an incredibly small likelihood of occurring about 1.4 in 10 million  
years. Considering that used fuel will be transported for only about 24 years, the chances that  
such worst case accident might occur essentially is zero. The chances of such a fatal accident are  
far less than those of a loss of life during even a meteor impact, which has a probability of  
occurrence of one in 100,000 years.

4 Transporting used fuel can be done safely. We've proven that we can safely transport  
radioactive cargos without harming American citizens or the environment. During the past 30  
5 years nearly 30,000 shipments of spent fuel has been moved safely. The fuel is transported in  
canisters that are designed to withstand the extreme conditions, such as fire, train collisions or  
6 highway crashes. Shipments of used fuel will be regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory  
Commission and the Department of Transportation. Routing will be strictly controlled with  
7 input from states and tribal groups. Emergency plans are required for transportation companies  
and railways before any shipment can be started. DOE has experts standing by in the unlikely  
event of an accident. FirstEnergy is also prepared to respond to an emergency.

8

Building a repository is the environmentally responsible thing to do. A repository will safely isolate used nuclear fuel and other high-level waste for thousands of years and ensure that Americans continue to enjoy the benefits of reliable economic and emission free nuclear energy. The Draft EIS, with its extensive scientific studies, shows that Yucca Mountain is a suitable repository for used nuclear fuel. And it just makes sense that we continue forward with Yucca Mountain as the repository for our nation's used fuel. What we really encourage is to keep this ball rolling.

9

I want to thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and we encourage you to finalize the Environmental Impact Statement on Yucca Mountain in the year 2000. If appropriate, recommend siting a repository at Yucca Mountain to the President in year 2001 and apply for a license with the NRC in 2002. Only by doing this, will Yucca Mountain open in 2010. Thank you.