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MR. BRADLEY: I am Harry Bradley, Executive Director of the American Nuclear Society, which was established in 1954, and has more than 11,000 individual members, scientists and engineers worldwide.

DR. LAWSON (Facilitator): Mr. Bradley, excuse me a second. I want to ask, as I said before, I have to ask for quiet in the room while testimony is going on. If you need to have a conversation, if you would please step outside. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

1 MR. BRADLEY: Its International Headquarters is in LaGrange Park, Illinois. I am here to remind the panel that common sense dictates it is better to safely manage nuclear waste at one central location rather than at many sites across the nation. The Yucca Mountain Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) finds that a central repository is far safer than having spent fuel stored at 72 commercial sites in 36 states.

Legislation enacted in 1982 provided that in exchange for payments into the Nuclear Waste Fund by electricity consumers, the Department of Energy would begin taking spent fuel from utilities by January 31, 1998. That date came and went with no acceptance of spent fuel by DOE, in spite of the fact that three federal courts have reaffirmed that the DOE has a legal obligation to accept spent fuel.

It should be noted that consumers of electricity generated by nuclear energy have committed \$16 billion to the Nuclear Waste Fund to pay for the repository.

The findings of the DEIS support moving forward with the Yucca Mountain project. Deep geologic disposal is supported universally by the scientific community as the best way to store spent fuel. There is no scientific reason for the government now not to honor its obligation to electricity consumers and move aggressively on readying Yucca Mountain for acceptance of spent fuel.

As a citizen of Illinois, I support moving forward with the Yucca Mountain repository so that the acceptance of spent fuel can begin as quickly as possible, thereby reaffirming the contract between the federal government and nuclear utility ratepayers.

A few facts you may find of interest on Illinois. There are 11 nuclear units in the state producing electricity. Nationally, nuclear power supplies 20 percent of electricity produced. In 1998, nuclear energy supplied 42 percent of the electricity generated in Illinois. Since 1983, consumers of electricity from Illinois nuclear plants have committed more than \$2.1 billion, including interest and one-time fees, into the Nuclear Waste Fund.