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1 MR. GREEN: My name is Lewis Green. I live in St. Louis County and my office is just about two blocks from this building we're in now. This proposal to transport more than 70,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain and leave it there permanently in an area with a history of earthquakes, volcanoes and a fluctuating water table, this proposal, in my opinion, should be scrapped.

2 Some of this waste will be toxic for 150 million years, some of it even longer. No responsible person can assure us that any container will contain this waste for that period of time even under the best conditions. We don't have the best conditions there. We have major unanswered questions about the geologic predictability and long-term stability of the Yucca Mountain site. For almost 60 years we've been generating this high-level radioactive waste and our scientific experts still have not found a safe way to dispose of it.

4 It is time now for Congress to create a new Manhattan Project to try to figure out how to clean up the huge messes generated by the first Manhattan Project and the atomic age it created. Congress, along with the experts, should step back and reevaluate the entire national nuclear waste policy. While they're doing that, the irradiated fuel rods should continue to be stored at the reactor sites in the current spent fuel pools and in dry storage casks, preferably inside the reactor containment building and related buildings. Where necessary, those buildings should be retrofitted to achieve the requisite safety status. This will be far more safe than attempting to transport all this waste to Yucca Mountain and burying it there in circumstances that we cannot say are safe.

First, this will avoid the major risk of transporting the equivalent of 2.3 million atom bombs across the highways and railways of this nation for the next 30 years. As several others have mentioned, accidents do happen and we see them around here. If radioactive wastes are put in motion on trucks and trains traveling throughout 43 states, the people will needlessly be exposed to great risks which could be avoided if these hazardous wastes are left in place in buildings which have been designed to contain them.

Second, maintenance of these wastes at their present locations makes above-ground monitoring possible, enabling us to detect and respond to leaks while we search for a permanent solution. Third, this preserves the option to use a safe solution, if and when a safe solution is ever found.

5 While the search for a safe solution continues, three steps should be taken immediately. First, we should abandon this ill-conceived proposal to transport this high-level waste to Yucca Mountain and bury it there. Second, we should stop creating any more of this nuclear waste unless and until safe, permanent disposition can be assured. And third, where necessary, using the Nuclear Waste Fund, we should retrofit the existing buildings to achieve maximum safety at the nuclear power plant sites. Thank you.