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JUN 05 2001

BILL VASCONI: Good evening. Bill Vasconi here, V-a-s-c-o-n-i. I've been a Nevada resident since 1964. I have three children in this area, six grandkids. I worked at the Nevada Test Site for 17 years. Well, for 34 years old I don't look too bad, do I?

I know a lot about radiation. I learned about it when I was about six years old, so this will date some of you. We went down to the neighborhood shoe store, and they had a machine down there just about the size of this, put your feet inside, with a new pair of shoes you could look down and wiggle your toes. Any of you old-timers remember that? Nope? Heck, yeah. So I learned about radiation a long time ago.

1 Look, folks, Yucca Mountain, I want DOE to know that there are Nevadans that do look at this as a national issue. Yeah, we got the feds on one side. I don't care whether it's EPA, NRC, DOE, DOD, DOT. There's probably a hell of a lot of other acronyms. We also have technical review boards, National Academy of Science, advisory boards to the NRC.

All this is the first repository for all these folks. We're building it with today's technology. I give our educational system more credit. I think we're doing the right thing right now. I think Yucca Mountain may well be a viable solution to this nation's nuclear issues and concerns, but in 300 years, giving our educational system more credit, I think they might have a better handle on it.

2 There's some of you folks who think there's going to be no end to oil, natural gas or coal. Well, some of us feel that, by gosh, Yucca Mountain may be a renewable energy resource.

3 I compliment this country for giving the citizens an opportunity to get to the mike and talk about it. You know, in some countries they build a project and then tell the citizens why. In this country we're going to talk about the whys and then build the project. Maybe that's fair, but we got to get it done.

4 You know, we got 50 years of expertise at the Nevada Test Site. We got the mountain, the management, the manpower, some 15 years of study. A lot of us believe those studies should continue and come to a resolve.

5 You get into your cow counties but you don't have much to do here in Nevada anymore, seeing how Clark County has got 1.3 million people, 50 percent of them lived in this county less than ten years. Yeah, they're worried about crime, roads, schools, etc. What's more dangerous, living in Las Vegas or Yucca Mountain? You've got a murder every other day, a rape every nine hours, a car stolen every 40 minutes. It's a hell of a nice safe place to live.

But up north the cow counties are asking about emergency response. They're asking about educational funds. They're talking about state-of-the-art emergency response, educational money for colleges, the universities. They're talking about improvement of the infrastructure. They're talking about jobs. They're talking about a railroad system. They're talking about health and safety. They're talking about protecting the environment. They're talking about having studies on site.

While we're down here talking about what's wrong with the project and why it's not coming here, everything is going on in motion. I feel in my own heart that there's entitlements, benefits that we ought to be addressing for our people for our own health and safety.

One minute remaining, thank you.

Yeah, we've got a long way to go. Let's let these folks decide if that's a safe place. And don't give me this argument it's a state issue. It's a national issue. When you can show me that you're going to take 65 atomic submarines and shut them down, because that's not a state issues, five being built, or nine aircraft carriers plus one under construction, that's a national issue. When you've got 82 reactors in universities and colleges and you say it's not a national issue, that's a national issue.

When Nevada refuses to take the products that's made in California or the produce or the steel from Gary, Indiana -- Japan has got 53 nuclear power houses. France has got 59. You tell me that you want not to accept those products from those foreign nations because they're nuclear made, I don't believe it.

You convince me we ought to tell everybody that has their money derived from nuclear power in one way or the other we don't want you here gambling, keep your products and your money at home, and the lights will go out in Las Vegas.

Thank you very much.