

July 17, 2009

NOTE TO: File

FROM: Gloria Kulesa /RA/

SUBJECT: TRANSCRIPT OF AREVA EAGLE ROCK ENRICHMENT  
FACILITY PUBLIC MEETING

The document below is being submitted at this  
time for public release with the above date as the  
release date.

**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: AREVA Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility  
Public Meeting

Docket Number: (n/a)

Location: Idaho Falls, Idaho

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2009

Work Order No.: NRC-2879

Pages 1-12

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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AREVA Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility

Public Meeting

+ + + + +

Thursday,

June 4, 2009

+ + + + +

Shilo Inn Suites

Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

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The above-entitled meeting convened at  
6:30 p.m., pursuant to notice, Chip Cameron, presiding

Reporter: Terry Sublette

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PANELISTS:  
CHIP CAMERON (facilitator)  
PATTY BUBAR  
BREEDA REILLY  
ANDREA KOCK

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

6:42 p.m.

1  
2  
3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Good evening,  
4 everyone. And my name is Chip Cameron and I work for  
5 the Executive Director for Operations at the Nuclear  
6 Regulatory Commission which we'll be referring to as  
7 the NRC tonight. We'll try not to use a lot of  
8 acronyms, but we will use that one, NRC. And it's my  
9 pleasure to serve as your facilitator for tonight's  
10 meeting.

11 Our topic tonight is going to be the NRC  
12 Evaluation Process for an application that we had  
13 received from the AREVA Company to build and operate a  
14 uranium enrichment facility in Bonneville County and  
15 it's being called the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

16 So we're going to tell you a little bit about the NRC  
17 review process, what the NRC looks at in deciding  
18 whether to grant an application such as the one that  
19 we received from AREVA and also how you can  
20 participate in the NRC evaluation.

21 Tonight we're going to focus on the  
22 environmental part of the review. The NRC staff is  
23 going to be telling you about the entire review  
24 process. But we're really focusing on the  
25 environmental portion of that review tonight.

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1           Before we get into the substance of  
2 tonight's discussion, I wanted to tell you a little  
3 bit about the format for the meeting, some simple  
4 ground rules to help us to have a good meeting and to  
5 introduce the NRC staff to you.

6           The meeting is basically going to be run  
7 in two segments. The first segment we're going to  
8 have a few brief NRC presentations for you to give you  
9 some background on the NRC review process and we  
10 should have some time for a few questions after that  
11 before we get to the second part of the meeting which  
12 is an opportunity for the NRC staff to listen to you,  
13 your comments, your advice, your recommendations,  
14 concerns on what the NRC should look at in developing  
15 its environmental impact statement.

16           Now the NRC is also accepting written  
17 comments on these issues, but we wanted to be with you  
18 here tonight in person to talk to you about them.  
19 Anything that you say tonight will have the same  
20 weight as a written comment.

21           And as I mentioned we'll have time for  
22 some questions before we get to the comment portion.  
23 If we can't get to all of your questions because we do  
24 need to hear from everybody who wants to speak  
25 tonight, the NRC staff will be here after the meeting

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1 to talk with you about whatever questions you might  
2 have that did not get answered.

3 I'm going to ask you to follow some simple  
4 ground rules tonight. First of all, please hold any  
5 questions that you might have until we hear from all  
6 of the NRC presenters. When we do get to the question  
7 period, if you have a question, just signal me and  
8 I'll bring you this cordless microphone and if you  
9 could just introduce yourself to us and we'll try to  
10 answer your questions.

11 And I would ask that only one person speak  
12 at a time for two important reasons, one, so that we  
13 can give our full attention to whomever has the floor  
14 at the moment and, secondly, so that we can get a  
15 clean transcript. We have Terry Sublette with us  
16 tonight. And Terry is our court reporter. We're  
17 taking a transcript of the meeting and that will be  
18 our record and your record of what has transpired here  
19 tonight. And if we only have one person speaking at a  
20 time Terry will know who that is. So let's follow  
21 that particular ground rule.

22 Another ground rule I would ask you to  
23 follow is try to be brief in your remarks tonight. We  
24 have a number of people signed up to speak and I want  
25 to make sure that we can get to everybody within a

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1 reasonable time period. So I would ask you to follow  
2 a five minute guideline in your comments tonight and  
3 that should give you enough time to summarize whatever  
4 you have to say. We will accept written statements  
5 tonight that we will attach to the transcript and will  
6 be an official comment and if you want to amplify on  
7 your comments then you can use the written comment  
8 mechanism to do that.

9 The NRC staff is here to listen to your  
10 comments tonight. So they're not going to be  
11 responding to the comments you're giving tonight. But  
12 they will carefully consider those comments and those  
13 will be summarized in a report that the NRC will be  
14 issuing on this particular meeting.

15 And I guess a final ground rule is often  
16 it doesn't need to be said, but just in case is please  
17 extend courtesy to everyone here tonight. You may  
18 hear some opinions tonight that differ from your own  
19 opinions and just please respect the person giving it.

20 And now let me introduce the NRC staff who  
21 are going to be talking to you tonight and I want to  
22 give you at least a brief idea of what their  
23 experience has been and we're first going to hear from  
24 Patty Bubar who is the Deputy Director of the Waste  
25 Management and Environmental Protection Division at

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1 the NRC and she's going to give you some background on  
2 the NRC and its mission.

3           Patty has had considerable experience in  
4 Federal Government. She's been with the NRC for two  
5 years. It must seem probably a lot longer though,  
6 doesn't it? Two years now, but she came to us from  
7 the Department of Energy and she also has worked for  
8 the United States Environmental Protection Agency.  
9 She has specialties in environmental protection, waste  
10 disposal, and public outreach.

11           After we hear from Patty, we're going to  
12 go to Breeda Reilly and Breeda is the Project Manager  
13 for the safety side of the review of this application  
14 and she's in the Advanced Fuel Cycle Branch of the NRC  
15 and she's going to tell you about the overall process  
16 and the safety review that the NRC will be performing.

17           She's been with the NRC since 2005 and  
18 Breeda came to us from the Environmental Protection  
19 Agency where she was with the EPA Office of Emergency  
20 Management. In addition to being the project manager  
21 for the review of this application, she's been the  
22 project manager for several license amendments and  
23 license renewal reviews and her specialty is chemical  
24 safety.

25           And after we hear from Breeda, we're going

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1 to go to Andrea Kock and Andrea is the Branch Chief of  
2 the Environmental Protection Branch in Patty Bubar's  
3 division and Andrea is going to focus on our emphasis  
4 tonight which is the environmental portion of the NRC  
5 review.

6 And in terms of Andrea's background, she's  
7 been with the NRC for 13 years and she's had varied  
8 experience at the NRC, including being one of our  
9 inspectors out in the field inspecting NRC licensed  
10 facilities. She also was the lead staff on the Safety  
11 Culture Initiative at the NRC and Andrea's background  
12 is in health physics, particularly as it relates to  
13 radiation and the environment.

14 And with that, I'm just going to thank you  
15 all for being here tonight and helping us with this  
16 decision and I'm going to turn it over to Patty at  
17 this point.

18 MS. BUBAR: Thank you, Chip. Good  
19 evening, everyone and thank you for coming. I'm going  
20 to try to use this microphone just because it will be  
21 easier for me to look at the slides.

22 As Chip said, I'm just going to spend a  
23 few minutes discussing with you a little bit about  
24 what the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does, what our  
25 mission is, who we are and who we aren't, just lay the

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1 groundwork for the next two speakers and describe a  
2 little bit about the process and why we're here.

3 We are a commission and we were  
4 established by a piece of legislation in 1974 called  
5 the Energy Reorganization Act. We are an independent  
6 regulatory agency and basically what that means is our  
7 commissioners are approved by the Senate. Our  
8 chairman is selected by the President. But on a day-  
9 to-day basis, we do our work independent from either  
10 the Executive or the Congressional branch. Of course,  
11 we submit our budget to the Office of Management and  
12 Budget and we have Congressional oversight provided to  
13 us, but different from Cabinet level agencies, we are  
14 an independent commission and our mission is safety.

15 We regulate the commercial uses of nuclear  
16 material and our mission is to protect people and the  
17 environment. Our makeup is we have five commissioners  
18 with one of them being a chairman. Currently, we have  
19 four commissioners. So we are one commissioner down  
20 and one of those commissioner's term is up at the end  
21 of June. So at that point in time we'll be two  
22 commissioners down.

23 We have a new chairman recently appointed  
24 by the President. Commissioner Jaczko was appointed  
25 as the Chairman. The Chairman before that was

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1 Chairman Klein and he went back to being a  
2 commissioner. So our general makeup is four  
3 commissioners and a chairman. Right now, we have a  
4 chairman and three commissioners.

5 With this legislation, the other duties of  
6 the former Atomic Energy Commission which this Energy  
7 Reorganization Act addressed were assigned to the  
8 Department of Energy. So we are not the Department of  
9 Energy. We are the independent regulatory agency.

10 We have a little over 3,000 staff. Our  
11 headquarters is in Rockville, Maryland which is a  
12 suburb of the Washington, D.C. area and then we have  
13 regional offices in four states, Pennsylvania,  
14 Georgia, Illinois, Texas. We have actually one or two  
15 regional employees with us this evening also.

16 Our regions house the inspectors. So  
17 after or if and when an license is issued, inspections  
18 go on on a regular basis and those inspectors are  
19 housed out in the regional offices.

20 As I mentioned, our mission is to license  
21 and regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct,  
22 source and special nuclear materials and to ensure  
23 adequate protection of public health and safety and to  
24 protect the environment. So this process that we're  
25 engaging in is part of carrying that mission out.

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1           We regulate several things. We regulate  
2 power reactors, nuclear materials, nuclear waste and  
3 nuclear security. What we're talking about tonight is  
4 mostly nuclear materials and nuclear waste.

5           What we don't do. We do not build or  
6 promote nuclear facilities. We do not own or operate  
7 nuclear power plants or any nuclear facilities. We  
8 are the regulator. We do not regulate nuclear weapons  
9 and we don't operate in facilities. We do not  
10 regulate radon or x-rays.

11           Our mission is done in a very public way.

12       We place a high priority on keeping the public and  
13 stakeholders informed and engaged in the process.  
14 Hopefully, you can get on our website fairly easily  
15 and see some of the things that we do do, have any  
16 questions that you have answered. You can find  
17 meeting dates, transcripts, access the Electronic  
18 Reading Room to find publications and documents. So  
19 we hope that the website provides you an entree into  
20 understanding our process. But certainly with regards  
21 to the AREVA application all of us here this evening  
22 want to answer your questions and give you our  
23 business cards so that if there are any follow-up  
24 questions that you have will also be able to be  
25 answered.

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1           We place a high value on dialogue and  
2           communications, dialogue with other federal agencies,  
3           state agencies, Congress, everybody who is listed  
4           there. This week while many of us have been out here  
5           we have made an attempt to visit with many of the  
6           Idaho State agencies, the Bureau of Land Management,  
7           other federal agencies that we know that we've got to  
8           coordinate and cooperate with. So our daily business  
9           is done by coordinating and cooperating with other  
10          government agencies as well as industry groups and  
11          public interests groups and, of course, you  
12          representing the public this evening.

13                 Just one more slide on why we are here.  
14          As part of the licensing process, we conduct an  
15          environmental review. AREVA has submitted an  
16          application to us that has a safety report and an  
17          environmental report associated with it. Breeda and  
18          Andrea will discuss a little bit about what we do with  
19          each of those reports and we do our own independent  
20          review. But as Chip had said, we are focusing on the  
21          environmental review this evening.

22                 And we want your input. This is a scoping  
23          meeting on the environmental impact statement which we  
24          have just begun. We are at the beginning. No  
25          decisions have been made. So hopefully this evening

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1 after we've gone through just a little bit of  
2 presentations to make sure that there's a good  
3 background on why we're here, we're then going to open  
4 it up and we value your input, particularly on the  
5 environmental impact statement.

6 So with that, I'm going to turn it over to  
7 Breeda and she will describe the safety review  
8 process.

9 MS. REILLY: This evening I wanted to just  
10 spend a few minutes talking about our licensing review  
11 process and give you a little bit of background on the  
12 license application.

13 I don't know. This probably isn't a very  
14 good graphic, but our intent was to show the location  
15 of the facility. It's west of Idaho Falls, a little  
16 bit north of Route 20. And this graphic came out of  
17 the environmental report. So if you want to see that,  
18 you can get that report off our website.

19 As Chip alluded to, we've received the  
20 license application from AREVA for a uranium  
21 enrichment plant to be located about 18 miles west of  
22 Idaho Falls in Bonneville County. The plant would be  
23 called the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

24 I just wanted to explain a little bit  
25 about where the Enrichment Facility falls in the

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1 process for creating fuel for power plants. Uranium  
2 is a naturally-occurring material and it has two  
3 isotopes, U235 and U238. Fuel for nuclear power  
4 reactors uses the U235 isotope. U235 occurs at a  
5 concentration of about 0.7 percent naturally in the  
6 form that's naturally occurring. So the enrichment  
7 process is a way of concentrating the U235 isotope to  
8 a concentration that can be used for fuel for power  
9 plants. The concentrate is about three to five  
10 percent.

11 AREVA submitted their application to us in  
12 December of 2008. Our review team took a look at that  
13 application to determine if it's a complete  
14 application. That's what we call our acceptance  
15 review. The application was accepted for review in  
16 March.

17 In April, AREVA submitted a revision to  
18 their application basically asking if they can double  
19 the capacity of the plant to 6.6 SWU plant and a SWU  
20 is a unit of measure that describes the capacity of  
21 enrichment of the plant. The staff also reviewed that  
22 revision and accepted that for review, determining  
23 that it was a complete application. So, right now,  
24 the NRC safety and environmental reviews are underway.

25 This graph is intended to depict the

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1 licensing process. The two reviews, one is the safety  
2 review and at the bottom there's the environmental  
3 review. Those reviews occur in parallel. And what  
4 I've noted here on this graphic is in the oval boxes  
5 are the places where the NRC makes documents available  
6 to the public and the square green boxes are the  
7 points where the public can have input to our process.

8 So I'll talk a little bit about the safety  
9 review. The safety review involves looking at  
10 different disciplines. We have a team of people who  
11 look at fire safety, chemical safety and a number of  
12 different issues and their findings are published in a  
13 report called the safety evaluation report.

14 And then parallel, the environmental  
15 review is looking at environmental impacts from the  
16 proposed projects and then there are several steps in  
17 that. Tonight we're in the box that's called scoping  
18 activities. But there will also be a draft  
19 environmental impact statement and a final EIS, the  
20 environmental impact statement.

21 In the middle pathway, there's also a  
22 formal hearing process that's a court-like procedure.

23 It's an independent review of the staff's safety  
24 evaluation and environmental reviews and it starts  
25 with the issuance of a hearing order that describes

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1 the process for stakeholders to identify any issues  
2 that they would want to bring to the hearing as part  
3 of the hearing. So the actual hearing process would  
4 start after the staff had finished their safety  
5 evaluation report and the final environmental impact  
6 statement.

7 And the Commission doesn't reach a  
8 decision on the license until that hearing process is  
9 complete. So from the time that we accept the  
10 application until the time is complete is about a 30  
11 month process.

12 I just want to talk a little bit about  
13 some of the details about the safety review. We look  
14 at the applicant's qualifications. We look at all  
15 their safety programs, the fire, the radiation  
16 protection, chemical safety. We look at both typical  
17 operating procedures as well as accidents and we look  
18 at any additional things including decommissioning  
19 plans.

20 Some example review areas include  
21 management and organization. We look at the  
22 integrated safety analysis. We look at the various  
23 programs and physical protection and security and our  
24 reviews address both normal operating and accident  
25 conditions.

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1           The NRC's technical review is expected to  
2 take about 18 months from the time that we accepted  
3 the application. So we're about two months into that  
4 process. Our staff will review the application.  
5 We'll look for any gaps in the application and we'll  
6 ask the applicant for additional information to fill  
7 in those gaps and then ultimately our safety review is  
8 documented in the safety evaluation report. And as I  
9 mentioned the hearing is required for uranium  
10 enrichment plants.

11           As I showed in that graphic, the public  
12 will have several opportunities to provide input to  
13 the licensing process. There will be an opportunity  
14 to petition for hearing. I guess we're expecting that  
15 to occur shortly and that would be published in our  
16 *Federal Register* and it would explain the process for  
17 petitioning to be part of the hearing.

18           The other opportunity is the process we  
19 have tonight. As part of the environmental review  
20 process, we have the scoping meeting. We'll have  
21 another meeting and Andrea will describe that for when  
22 the draft EIS is completed.

23           Some other opportunities are once we've  
24 finished our evaluation and published our  
25 environmental impact statement and safety evaluation

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1 report, we'll have a meeting to discuss those findings  
2 and once a decision on the license is made, then if  
3 the license is issued, we'll have a meeting to talk  
4 about the construction inspection program that would  
5 occur before the facility would begin operating.

6 These are two websites where you could  
7 find information about the AREVA application. The  
8 application includes the environmental report and the  
9 safety analysis report and they're available through  
10 our websites.

11 And that's the contact information for  
12 myself and for the environmental project manager,  
13 Gloria Kulesa. I'll turn it over to Andrea.

14 MS. KOCK: Thank you. Good evening. I'm  
15 the last speaker before we do what we came here to do  
16 which is to listen to your input tonight. So I'm  
17 going to try and be very brief.

18 My name is Andrea Kock as Chip indicated.  
19 I'm the Chief of the Environmental Review Branch. My  
20 branch is responsible for developing the environmental  
21 impact statement which is part of the licensing  
22 process as Breeda explained. I'm giving this  
23 presentation on behalf of Gloria Kulesa who is the  
24 project manager in my branch who is responsible for  
25 the development of the environmental impact statement.

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1       Unfortunately, she couldn't be here.

2                       So my place is responsible for developing  
3 this environmental impact statement which is part of  
4 our licensing process that Breeda kind of told you  
5 about. And what I'd like to do is explain to you why  
6 we're here tonight and then give you an overview of  
7 our environmental process so that you understand how  
8 and when you can provide your input and then give you  
9 a sense of what the types of issues are that we look  
10 at in the environmental review so that you know that's  
11 the kind of information that we're looking for your  
12 input on. And then I'm going to tell you after  
13 tonight what are the next steps, kind of where are we  
14 going with all of this, so that you have an  
15 understanding of that.

16                      And what I really want to convey is that  
17 your input is critical for our review and it will be  
18 taken seriously and it will be reviewed thoroughly.  
19 And then the other thing I'd like to leave you with is  
20 that we'd like this to be an iterative process. So  
21 our interaction with you doesn't stop after tonight  
22 and to that end we have several steps within our  
23 process where you have an opportunity to provide input  
24 to us. So we don't want this to be a one-time thing.

25                      Why are we here? Well, Breeda explained

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1 that there is an environmental review process and we  
2 look at the environmental impacts of construction and  
3 operation of AREVA's proposed facility as part of our  
4 environmental review. Our environmental review is the  
5 licensing process and as Breeda explained there's two  
6 parallel paths. My group completes the environmental  
7 impact statement and Breeda's group completes the  
8 safety review.

9 So a critical part of the environmental  
10 review process is doing what we're doing tonight which  
11 is gathering your input and getting your comments and  
12 the thought is that since you live here or you work  
13 near here, you really have some good insights for us  
14 on what we need to consider as we move through this  
15 process and look at what the environmental impacts are  
16 of building this facility. And that's why we really  
17 want to reserve the bulk of this meeting to listening  
18 to what you have to say so that we're sure that we're  
19 considering all we need to think about when we're  
20 looking at the environmental impacts of the facility.

21 So beyond just the good sense of listening  
22 to the people who live and work near here when we're  
23 looking at the environmental impacts, there are some  
24 laws that do require us to involve the public in our  
25 process. The first one that's listed there is the

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1 National Environmental Policy Act and that is the  
2 legislation that requires federal agencies to consider  
3 the environmental impacts of the decision that we make  
4 when we're making decisions on whether to issue  
5 licenses.

6 And then the NRC has its own requirements  
7 for environmental reviews that are 10 CFR Part 51.  
8 And those requirements mirror what's in the National  
9 Environmental Policy Act and they also require us to  
10 come out and involve the public in our process.

11 Our regulations actually require that we  
12 complete an environmental impact statement for uranium  
13 enrichment facilities such as this facility. And  
14 that's the most comprehensive kind of environmental  
15 review that the NRC undertakes.

16 And our guidance, that's listed there too,  
17 what we call our NUREG 1748, also echoes this  
18 requirement or guidance to our staff that we involve  
19 the public. So we're really here to listen to what  
20 you have to say, gather your inputs so that we're  
21 making sure we're not missing anything when we look at  
22 whether to issue AREVA a license from an environmental  
23 standpoint.

24 This is a really busy slide. I'm not  
25 going to go through all of it with you, but what I

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1 wanted to point out are the blue boxes here that show  
2 where you have an opportunity to provide input into  
3 our process. And the first one there is the scoping  
4 meeting which is tonight and the purpose of the  
5 scoping meeting is for us to come and listen to what  
6 people who live or work near the facility or have some  
7 interest in the facility have to say about what the  
8 NRC should consider when we complete our environmental  
9 impact statement.

10 After tonight, we'll take what you have to  
11 say. We're going to consider your comments and the  
12 NRC actually does its own independent review of what  
13 the environmental impacts of construction and  
14 operation of this facility would be. We also look at  
15 what AREVA has evaluated to be the environmental  
16 impacts of the facility. We consider all of that and  
17 we'll put out a draft environmental impact statement  
18 at that point once we've considered all of that  
19 information.

20 That's what's in the second blue box there  
21 in this diagram and we're shooting to do that around  
22 the wintertime, this coming winter in 2010. At that  
23 point, we'll put the draft document out for public  
24 comment. You'll have an opportunity to provide your  
25 comments on the document and then we'll do a public

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1 meeting where we'll gather your comments actually on  
2 the draft document at that point. So that's another  
3 avenue you have to provide input into our process.

4 The third blue box on this diagram is what  
5 Breeda spoke about briefly and so I won't repeat what  
6 she had to say about the hearing process at the NRC  
7 and that, of course, is the third way that you have an  
8 opportunity to provide input into our process. And  
9 Breeda told you that the safety evaluation takes about  
10 18 months and similarly the environmental impact  
11 statement also takes about 18 months to complete.

12 These are the different steps I told you  
13 about and the first one there is the scoping meeting  
14 that's occurring tonight. The other thing I wanted to  
15 tell you about was what is a scoping meeting. The  
16 purpose again is for you to come and provide your  
17 input into what we need to consider and while I did  
18 mention that scoping is required per the National  
19 Environmental Policy Act and per NRC requirements, the  
20 primary purpose of this meeting beyond those  
21 requirements is to make sure that we're listening to  
22 your input and considering it thoroughly.

23 And we're hoping that the comments that  
24 you provide us help us to focus and refine our review.

25 So I've listed here on this slide the sort of things

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1 that we're looking for your input on. And one of them  
2 is what are the significant impacts to the environment  
3 of building this facility. For example, you may know  
4 that there is an endangered species that lives on the  
5 site currently and that building this facility might  
6 have an impact on that species and that's an important  
7 thing for the NRC to consider. So we're looking for  
8 your input on that kind of information.

9 The other thing that is listed there is  
10 your comments might help us to actually decide what's  
11 not so important for us to look at. For example, this  
12 may not be the case in this particular case, but the  
13 site may be proposed at a very rural facility where  
14 maybe we don't need to look so closely at what are the  
15 noise impacts because there's not a lot of people  
16 around there. Of course, we'll look at noise, but  
17 your comments may help us very quickly move on from  
18 that and really focus our review on what's important.

19 So if you have comments to that end, that would be  
20 very useful for us as well.

21 I have here identify alternatives. Now as  
22 part of AREVA's environmental report, they have to  
23 provide what are the alternatives that could be  
24 explored for producing enriched uranium. This could  
25 be using a different technology. It could building

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1 the facility at a different location. So we're also  
2 looking for your input on are there alternative ways  
3 for AREVA to meet the purpose of this facility. We  
4 need to consider that in our review.

5 And the last thing I would mention on this  
6 slide and Patty alluded to this is that AREVA has to  
7 interact with not just the NRC but other state, local  
8 agencies and interest groups in looking to get a  
9 license for this facility. The NRC is committed to  
10 reaching out to those groups so that we're not  
11 duplicating efforts and that we're being efficient and  
12 that we work together with those groups. But if you  
13 have information about a state agency or a local  
14 agency or interest group that the NRC should be  
15 interacting with, that would also be very useful for  
16 us to know.

17 That pretty much covers what scoping is  
18 and what we hope to gain tonight by listening to your  
19 comments. This slide just shows again where the  
20 scoping process falls within our overall environmental  
21 impact statement process.

22 The other thing I wanted to leave you with  
23 is what is an environmental impact statement. What  
24 are the kinds of things that we look at and again I'm  
25 telling you this in an effort to help you understand

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1 the types of things we're looking for your input on.  
2 An environmental impact statement is a comprehensive  
3 evaluation of all of the environmental impacts of the  
4 facility starting with construction of the facility  
5 through operation and continuing to when this facility  
6 is shutdown some day. What are the environmental  
7 impacts of that shutdown?

8 And the environmental impact statement  
9 again is an input into our licensing process. So it  
10 provides both you and the people at the NRC who need  
11 to decide whether to provide AREVA with this license  
12 what are the environmental impacts of building the  
13 facility so that we can consider that in our licensing  
14 decision.

15 The EIS is really built into five main  
16 areas. We look at what is the proposed action that  
17 AREVA is proposing with this facility. In this case  
18 it's the enrichment of uranium. What is the need of  
19 the facility? We look at, I already mentioned,  
20 alternatives. That's part of our environmental  
21 document. We look at the affected environment. So we  
22 look at what does the environment at the site look  
23 like right now and that's important for us to know and  
24 if you have information on what's out there right now  
25 it's important for us to know that because we want to

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1 know how that current environment will be affected by  
2 building and operating this facility.

3 We, of course, look at the environmental  
4 impacts of the facility. And then lastly if we do  
5 find that there are significant impacts to  
6 construction or operation of this facility AREVA may  
7 propose to mitigate those impacts. So those are  
8 really the five main topics that we include in our  
9 environmental impact statement and give you an idea of  
10 the kinds of things that we're looking for your input  
11 on.

12 A little bit more on environmental impact  
13 statements. I think I mentioned that we look at the  
14 whole life cycle of the facility from construction all  
15 the way through decommissioning and shutdown. This  
16 slide gives you an idea of the kinds of areas that we  
17 look at ranging from air to economic to water issues  
18 and waste issues.

19 One important thing to keep in mind is  
20 that the environmental review is a little bit broader  
21 than the safety review. We do look at some of the  
22 same issues that the safety side looks at. So the  
23 things that you would automatically look at when you  
24 think of what are environmental impacts or what are  
25 the impacts on the water, what's the impacts on the

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1 air. We kind of go beyond that and we look at things  
2 like socioeconomic impacts. So this facility may  
3 bring additional jobs to the community. That may  
4 bring additional people and that may have an impact  
5 on, for example, the school systems. So that's  
6 something that we look at in our document.

7 We look at cultural resources in our  
8 document and we look at something called environmental  
9 justice which is will this facility have an impact on  
10 any minority or low income population that would be  
11 inequitable to the rest of the population. So the  
12 thing to keep in mind is our environmental impact  
13 statement is a very broad document and looks at a wide  
14 variety of topics.

15 And then the last thing there is we look  
16 at direct, indirect, short-term and long-term impacts.

17 So a direct impact is the type of thing you would  
18 think of. This facility is putting effluents in the  
19 air. What is the direct impact on the air?

20 We look at indirect impacts which are more  
21 like the socioeconomic issues that I kind of alluded  
22 to. It's a step removed from a direct impact. So the  
23 facility may bring jobs which may have some impacts on  
24 the community either through the economy or through  
25 the school system or the health care system.

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1           We look at the short-term impacts. We  
2 look at construction impacts and then we look at long-  
3 term impacts. So what's going to happen 30 years from  
4 now when the facility wants to shutdown? What will be  
5 the environmental impacts of that as well? That gives  
6 you an idea of the scope of our review and the types  
7 of issues that we look at.

8           This slide just again reiterates where  
9 your main points are where you can provide input and  
10 that's through tonight's meeting, the scoping meeting  
11 and when we put out the draft environmental impact  
12 statement for comment.

13           This slide again gives you an overview of  
14 the environmental review process. But what I wanted  
15 to talk about is really what happens next after  
16 tonight. After tonight's scoping meeting, we have  
17 what we call scoping period. It began on May 4th and  
18 it ends on June 19th. So you have an opportunity to  
19 tell the NRC what we should be considering in this  
20 document through June 19th.

21           I mentioned that after that we'll take  
22 your input. We'll do our independent evaluation and  
23 we'll issue our draft document by this winter in  
24 January 2010. At that time, there will be a *Federal*  
25 *Register* notice that will announce the availability of

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1 that document. It will also be posted on our website.

2 And if you didn't, you might want to take an  
3 opportunity to fill out one of the blue cards that's  
4 at the registration out here because that way you can  
5 get on our mailing list and we can kind of keep you  
6 apprised of what's going on and let you know when the  
7 draft document comes out so you'll be sure to see it  
8 and comment on it.

9 And then Breeda spoke about hearing  
10 opportunities and when the notice for hearing comes  
11 out you can have an opportunity to request a hearing  
12 through the Commission. I also wanted to make sure I  
13 tell you that the license application and the  
14 environmental report are available for your review at  
15 the Idaho Falls Public Library. If you don't have  
16 access to a computer, you can go to the library and  
17 look at it. And again I just want to tell you that we  
18 want to remain connected to you through this process  
19 and make sure that your comments are considered.

20 How do you make a comment? You can speak  
21 at this meeting. As Chip mentioned, we have this  
22 meeting transcribed. So if you want to make a comment  
23 that will go on the record so we have it in writing.  
24 You can fill out a comment form. We have comment  
25 forms available at the registration table where you

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1 can make a comment either on the format of this  
2 meeting or you can actually make a scoping comment for  
3 us.

4 We've established a specific email address  
5 that's listed up there where you can write an email to  
6 provide a scoping comment to us. Or you can do it the  
7 good old fashioned way and you can write a letter and  
8 the address there is given in your slide package.

9 Breeda also had a slide that gave you the  
10 points of contact. They are listed there for you if  
11 you have any questions or comments and there's a  
12 couple of webpages listed there that have information  
13 you might be interested in. The first one just gives  
14 you some general information about the AREVA facility  
15 that might be of interest. The second one is  
16 important because that's the address for the NRC's  
17 Electronic Reading Room and if you want access to the  
18 license application or environmental report you can  
19 type in that number there that begins with ML and it  
20 will pull up the application for you to review. And  
21 again that Scoping Comment email address is listed  
22 there as well.

23 Now I think we'll be quiet and listen to  
24 what you have to say. The last thing I wanted to say  
25 was thank you for taking the time to come out and

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1 provide your comments to us. We do value those  
2 greatly. So thank you.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Andrea,  
4 Breeda, Patty. That was a high level overview of the  
5 NRC review process. We do have a little bit of time  
6 for questions about the process if anybody has some  
7 before we move to the comment part of the meeting.  
8 Does anybody have a question that they want to ask at  
9 this point? Yes. If you could just introduce  
10 yourself to us, sir.

11 MR. PETERSON: My name is Josh Peterson.  
12 I'm a local resident. I was wondering why are these  
13 facilities not subject to IAEA inspections or are  
14 they?

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Josh. Breeda, do you want to handle that or should we  
17 go to Tom on this one? I don't know.

18 MS. REILLY: Yes. You can go to --

19 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Where is Tom?

20 MR. POWELL: Tom is in the front row.

21 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Tom. This is --  
22 Introduce yourself.

23 MR. HILTZ: Yes. Good evening, everyone.  
24 My name is Tom Hiltz. I'm a branch chief in the  
25 Licensing Branch and work with Breeda on the safety

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1 and technical review of the application.

2 I'll be honest with you. I don't know the  
3 answer to your question. I think I do, but I don't  
4 want to say it in case I'm wrong. But the IAEA  
5 involvement in any facility will typically be after  
6 the facility is constructed and begins to operate.  
7 There may some interactions with the IAEA if it is  
8 under safeguards. And they will not have an impact on  
9 our review activities to determine whether the  
10 facility is ready to operate. In our operational  
11 readiness review, our construction and inspection  
12 program, our reviews and inspections will be  
13 completely independent of any subsequent IAEA  
14 activity.

15 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Tom. Anybody else have a question at this point?  
17 Yes, sir.

18 MR. HEBDITCH: My name is Dave Hebditch. I  
19 live in Idaho Falls. The IAEA is actually looking at  
20 safeguards by design at the moment where design would  
21 be considered early in the -- design for safeguards  
22 would be considered quite early.

23 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you and  
24 apropos of that the relationship I think between the  
25 IAEA and the NRC in this country or regulatory

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1 agencies in other countries is that they develop  
2 standards that the individual country regulatory  
3 agencies may adopt. That's one aspect of the  
4 relationship.

5 Anybody else have a question?

6 (No verbal response.)

7 Okay. Well, let's get into the comment  
8 portion of the meeting and we're grateful that we have  
9 a lot of people who want to comment and I'm going to  
10 have to be a little stricter than I want to be about  
11 the five minute rule and I guess it's probably a three  
12 to five minute guideline at this point. But we know  
13 that you take a lot of time to prepare your comments  
14 and we really appreciate that. So in the interest  
15 though of getting everybody on tonight, I would just  
16 ask you again to be brief.

17 And because your elected officials are so  
18 important to all of you and us, I'm going to start  
19 with some federal and state and local government  
20 officials and then we'll just keep working our way  
21 down and I guess I'm going to ask Amy Taylor from  
22 Senator Risch's office to come up first to talk with  
23 us and then we'll go to Leslie Huddleston from Senator  
24 Crapo's office and then to Laurel Sayer from  
25 Congressman Simpson's office. And this is Amy Taylor.

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1 MS. TAYLOR: Hi. I just have a statement  
2 to read from Senator Risch.

3 "Dear NRC Staff, as a U.S. Senator from  
4 Idaho, I have the privilege of serving as the ranking  
5 member of the Subcommittee on Energy. As we work to  
6 reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and provide  
7 sufficient energy for our homes and businesses,  
8 nuclear energy will play a key role in meeting both  
9 needs. But it is vital that enriched uranium be  
10 available for our commercial reactors.

11 To meet that need, I am in support of the  
12 AREVA Enrichment Services' license application to  
13 construct and operate the Eagle Rock Enrichment  
14 Facility in Southeastern Idaho. The enrichment  
15 facility will reduce our reliance on sources of  
16 nuclear fuel from outside the United States and  
17 utilize the centrifuge technology that is energy  
18 efficient and safe. The process will use 50 times  
19 less electricity than a gaseous diffusion plant and  
20 the amount of water used by the plant is less than the  
21 current irrigation appropriation.

22 Any potential environment impacts must be  
23 addressed before this facility is built and AREVA has  
24 a proven track record as a responsible company that  
25 will invest in the community and the citizens for the

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1 long term. That means they will build and operate a  
2 plant that is safe for workers, the community and our  
3 environment.

4 I also support the NRC's current  
5 application process and the holding of public meetings  
6 and hearings in Idaho Falls. Traditionally, whether  
7 they are federal, state or local projects, hearings  
8 are held in the area that is impacted no matter where  
9 the funding comes from.

10 In closing, I support AREVA's application  
11 for the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility and recognize  
12 the enormous positive impact they will have for our  
13 country, state and local citizens.

14 Yours truly, James E. Risch, U.S.  
15 Senator."

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
17 Amy, and thank the Senator for us.

18 Leslie.

19 MS. HUDDLESTON: Thank you.  
20 Unfortunately, Senator Crapo's schedule keeps him in  
21 D.C., but he sent some comments and I won't read the  
22 entire statement. I'll just pull some of the  
23 information and I'll leave the full comment with you.

24 "I would like to again express my strong  
25 support for the Eagle Rock Uranium Enrichment Facility

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1 that is scheduled to be built and operated in  
2 Bonneville County, Idaho. In May 2007, AREVA informed  
3 me of their intention to build its first uranium  
4 enrichment plant in the United States. Twelve months  
5 later, they announced their intention to site the  
6 appropriately named Eagle Rock Uranium Enrichment  
7 Facility in Southeastern Idaho. This facility will  
8 present a great opportunity for Southeastern Idaho to  
9 enhance its already strong position as a supplier of  
10 our nation's energy needs and I am pleased to lend my  
11 support to these efforts.

12 Now more than ever, it is critical to  
13 develop secure, economically feasible and clean  
14 supplies of domestic energy. AREVA's Eagle Rock  
15 facility will increase domestic uranium enrichment  
16 capacity enabling the nation to meet important  
17 national energy security goals. The Idaho enrichment  
18 facility will supply America's existing operation  
19 fleet of nuclear power reactors and further augment  
20 the anticipated growth of new commercial nuclear power  
21 generation here in the U.S.

22 AREVA submitted the Eagle Rock Uranium  
23 Enrichment Facility license application to the NRC in  
24 December of 2008 and I look forward to a rigorous and  
25 timely review of the license application by NRC. I am

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1 confident AREVA's proposal will meet the strong  
2 environmental and safety standards enforced by NRC.

3 The enrichment technology that AREVA plans  
4 to construct and operate in Idaho has been  
5 demonstrated in Europe and the NRC has already  
6 licensed an identical enrichment plant here in the  
7 U.S.

8 The Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility will  
9 only enhance the existing local recognition of Idaho's  
10 place as leader in nuclear technology and development.

11 The state's history and success with the Idaho  
12 National Laboratory indicates that we can confidently  
13 ensure a long term relationship with a responsible and  
14 responsive community partner like AREVA."

15 Thank you.

16 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
17 Leslie.

18 And Laurel Sayer.

19 MS. SAYER: Since the Congressman is in  
20 Washington, D.C., I too will read a letter from him  
21 and I'm going to just take a few paragraphs out it  
22 because you probably can only hear so much of this  
23 type of thing. So let me start.

24 "Dear NRC Commissioners. I want to take  
25 this opportunity to express my strong and unequivocal

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1 support for AREVA's license application to construct  
2 and operate the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. This  
3 is a strong application being offered by one of the  
4 world's leading nuclear energy companies. AREVA has a  
5 strong record of corporate achievement and safe  
6 operations such as the centrifuge technology that have  
7 been in use for over 30 years in the United Kingdom  
8 and other European countries.

9 I have visited AREVA's parent company  
10 facilities in France myself and have seen first-hand  
11 the way in which they maintain their facilities,  
12 secure their sites against potential threats and  
13 coordinate with their workers to ensure a world class  
14 operation. This is a good company with a great safety  
15 record and impressive record here in the United States  
16 and across the globe.

17 In closing I would like to stress the near  
18 unanimous support in Idaho for this project. The  
19 governor, the state legislation, strongly support it.

20 City and local governments support it. The entire  
21 Idaho congressional delegation strongly supports it.  
22 AREVA has demonstrated a willingness to be a good  
23 corporate citizen by becoming active in the Idaho  
24 Falls community and going the extra mile to  
25 communicate with the community and state leaders as

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1 well as citizens in regards to this project.

2 Thank you for taking the time to come and  
3 hear first-hand the way AREVA and the Eagle Rock  
4 Enrichment Facility have been embraced in our state  
5 and I encourage you to act expeditiously in  
6 considering and approving the application before you.

7 Our nation cannot wait any longer to embrace new  
8 nuclear energy technologies such as that offered in  
9 this license application if we are going to maintain  
10 our standard of living, grow our economy, reduce  
11 carbon dioxide emissions and end our reliance on  
12 foreign dependence of energy.

13 Sincerely, Congressman Mike Simpson."

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
15 Laurel.

16 Now we're going to go to some state  
17 senators and representatives and we have Senator Dean  
18 Mortimer here. Senator.

19 SENATOR MORTIMER: Good evening. I feel  
20 very privileged to be here and to express my support  
21 for this great project and also welcome the NRC staff  
22 to Eastern Idaho on a much nicer day than last  
23 December. But this is truly why we live in Eastern  
24 Idaho and it is a beautiful time of year.

25 On behalf of Legislative District 32 of

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1 Bonneville County and is their elected senator, I  
2 would like to express our support of the AREVA  
3 enrichment service license application to construct  
4 and operate the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. We  
5 believe that the safe and efficient uranium enrichment  
6 in the United States is necessary if our country is  
7 going to continue to generate electricity from carbon  
8 dioxide free nuclear power.

9 We also believe that nuclear energy must  
10 be used to provide energy independence. This facility  
11 will guarantee a secure supply of enrichment services  
12 for our reactors without relying on foreign supplies.

13 Our region, the Idaho Falls and this Eastern Idaho  
14 region, offers a qualified work force with a long  
15 history of nuclear energy as well as strong community  
16 and political support.

17 AREVA has also demonstrated already a  
18 willingness to be a good corporate citizen, being  
19 active in our community, in our state and  
20 communicating effectively with our citizens. I  
21 encourage the NRC to process the AREVA application  
22 expeditiously and I wish to express our support.

23 Thank you.

24 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And thank you,  
25 Senator. Next we're going to go to Representative

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1 Eric Simpson and then we'll go to Representative Russ  
2 Matthews.

3 REPRESENTATIVE SIMPSON: Thank you. Good  
4 evening. I'm Eric Simpson, State Representative for  
5 District 32B and I'm a Partnership for Science and  
6 Technology board member.

7 During the last year, I've met with AREVA  
8 officials several times to discuss the Eagle Rock  
9 Enrichment Facility and we discussed the specifics of  
10 the facility mission, the water required to operate  
11 such a facility, the facility's potential impact on  
12 wildlife species in the area and the storage of the  
13 depleted uranium generated from the facility.

14 AREVA officials such as Bob Poyser and  
15 James Yu have been extremely accommodating at  
16 answering my questions and we've also briefed the  
17 legislature's Environment, Energy and Technology  
18 Committee this year which I'm a member of also.  
19 Again, Bob and James and others have been tremendous  
20 to work with and you know despite what the activists  
21 have said in their literature in preparation for  
22 tonight's hearing, AREVA in my mind has demonstrated  
23 its commitment to be a top-notch environmental  
24 steward as it moves forward on the Eagle Rock  
25 Enrichment Facility.

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1           This facility is not a taxpayer funded  
2 endeavor nor will it become a stealth facility aimed  
3 at providing highly enriched uranium for the U.S. or  
4 France. And believe me, there's a big difference  
5 between three to five percent enriched uranium and 95  
6 percent enriched uranium. I'm sure there are some  
7 countries out there that wish it was that simple.

8           It will be the job of us and PST and many  
9 of you tonight to I think correct some of the  
10 misstatements that I've heard in the last couple of  
11 days. I support an open, honest debate, but let's all  
12 be honest. And I want to thank the NRC for the  
13 opportunity to speak in favor of the Eagle Rock  
14 Enrichment Facility and encourage a speedy review of  
15 the AREVA's application materials. And also I want to  
16 commend NRC for meeting today with the Shoshone-  
17 Bannock Tribes. I think that's a very good step and  
18 encourage the continued involvement of the tribes as  
19 well.

20           Thank you.

21           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you,  
22 Representative. Now this is Representative Russ  
23 Mathews.

24           MR. MATHEWS: I'm very grateful to be able  
25 to stand before you tonight. My name is Russ

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1 Matthews. I'm a member of the State House of  
2 Representatives and I represent District 33B. And I  
3 would like to address you tonight regarding the next  
4 step on the licensing process that I say should go  
5 forward.

6 In general, this regional utilization of  
7 Southeastern Idaho goes a long way in assuring our  
8 nation's energy goals. They include but are not  
9 limited to reducing America's dependence on  
10 traditional fossil fuels and improving our  
11 environmental safety record. I don't know what has  
12 been calibrated but there have been so many illnesses  
13 from fossil fuel emissions and things like that, from  
14 emphysema to other airborne maladies that cause people  
15 with allergies and so forth challenges. This is a  
16 very great opportunity to provide a clean alternative  
17 for a cleaner atmosphere. And also in general it's  
18 safe and would go a long way in our energy near future  
19 and so forth.

20 AREVA, I have also had a chance to meet  
21 with them on a multiplicity of occasions and find  
22 their management expert, their safety record strong  
23 and their commitment to the environment illustrative.

24 Let's move forward with the EIS scoping process and I  
25 thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight.

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1           Now if I might, it would please the  
2 Commission staff, Representative Jeff Thompson who  
3 also is from my same district in representing this  
4 area in the House of Representatives could not be  
5 here. He had a death in the family and he's attending  
6 to that. And if it would please the Commission, I'd  
7 like to read his statement. Would that be okay?

8           FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes. Go ahead.

9           MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

10           Quoting from his letter, he said, "Dear  
11 NRC Staff. My name is Jeff Thompson and I am your  
12 State Representative from Idaho Falls District 33 Seat  
13 A. I'm writing in support of AREVA Enrichment  
14 Services license application to construct and operate  
15 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. I believe the  
16 safe and efficient uranium enrichment in the United  
17 States is necessary if our country is going to  
18 continue to generate 20 percent or more of our  
19 electricity from carbon dioxide free nuclear power.

20           Today the United States imports 90 percent  
21 of the uranium enrichment services it needs. The  
22 Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility will guarantee a secure  
23 supply of enrichment services for our fleet of  
24 commercial nuclear reactors. Our region offers a  
25 qualified workforce with a long history in nuclear

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1 energy as well as a strong community and political  
2 support."

3 Summarizing, he says, "AREVA has  
4 demonstrated a willingness to be a very good corporate  
5 citizen by becoming active in our community and going  
6 the extra mile to communicate with our community and  
7 state leaders as well as citizens regarding this  
8 project." In closing, he says, "I urge you," and I  
9 agree with him, "to move forward quickly and  
10 expeditiously the process of AREVA's application for  
11 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. Sincerely, Jeff  
12 Thompson, Idaho State Representative."

13 Thank you very much.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
15 Representative Mathews.

16 Is Mike Webster here, Representative of  
17 Governor Otter? Mike, would you like to join us up  
18 here please?

19 MR. WEBSTER: You betcha. I'm Governor's  
20 Field Representative for this side of the state. I  
21 know quite a few of you. It's good to see you all  
22 again. On behalf of the Governor, I would like to  
23 read his statement.

24 "Dear Commissioners" and grandiose folks  
25 that are just walking out the door there, "I am

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1 pleased to see the" ... I'm sorry. I had to do it,  
2 guys. (Laughter.)

3 "I am pleased to see the Nuclear  
4 Regulatory Commission begin the licensing process for  
5 the construction and operation of the Eagle Rock  
6 Enrichment Facility in Bonneville County. This  
7 facility will demonstrate that Idaho is a prime  
8 location for clean energy investments. The Eagle Rock  
9 Enrichment Facility will be an example for partnership  
10 between the state and the industry in the economic  
11 development, clean energy deployment and environmental  
12 stewardship.

13 They will utilize the latest, cleanest and  
14 most economical commercial technology and minimize the  
15 overall environmental impact of its activities. The  
16 Eagle Rock Facility and the people of Idaho who will  
17 build and work there in the coming years will make a  
18 significant contribution to the energy security of the  
19 United States by creating a critical domestic supply  
20 of fuel cycle services that the nation's power  
21 producers can rely on.

22 In view of all that important objectives,  
23 I strongly urge the Commission to continue their  
24 review and licensing process as prudently and  
25 expeditiously as possible. I thank you for your

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1 efforts and look forward to the day when we open the  
2 doors to the new state-of-the-art facility in the  
3 State of Idaho. As always, esto perpetua, C.L.  
4 "Butch" Otter of Idaho."

5 Thank you, sir.

6 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thanks a lot, Mike.

7 Let's go to the Mayor, Mayor of Idaho  
8 Falls, Jared Fuhriman and then we're going to hear  
9 from Ann Rydalch and Beatrice Brailsford. This is  
10 Mayor Fuhriman.

11 MAYOR Fuhriman: I feel like I should be  
12 standing here looking at you and addressing you  
13 instead of this group. But, Chip, I'm assuming since  
14 we're the host city I get an extra 20 minutes. Is  
15 that right?

16 (Laughter.)

17 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Yes, I think that's  
18 correct, Mayor.

19 MAYOR Fuhriman: Great. First of all, I  
20 want to state that there are several mayors up and  
21 down this area that could not be here due to  
22 scheduling conflicts. The mayors of Iona, Chubbuck,  
23 Blackfoot, Rexburg are just a few of those and I have  
24 a letter that I will submit on behalf on the mayor of  
25 Iona.

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1 I would like to take just a few moments  
2 and kind of talk to you from a mayor's perspective of  
3 the considerable impact that AREVA could or would have  
4 in our area.

5 I along with several other individuals in  
6 the spring of 2007, we were first contacted by  
7 officials of AREVA stating that they were interested  
8 in looking at our community as a possible location  
9 site and I worked side-by-side with other members in  
10 the community and leaders in trying to convince them  
11 to come to our community. We're excited about the  
12 potential impact that this would have on our region  
13 and state.

14 And during the selection process, AREVA  
15 officials outlined what the Eagle Rock Enrichment  
16 Facility would entail, how it would impact our area,  
17 not only economically but environmentally. I was  
18 impressed with their answers, but I have to admit I  
19 did not understand much of their technology and some  
20 of the impact that they were talking about. As mayor  
21 of one of the largest cities in the state, I felt it  
22 was my responsibilities to try to find out as much as  
23 I could from this company to make sure that this would  
24 be the right fit for us.

25 Then came an unexpected invitation from

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1 AREVA that invited myself along with 24 other students  
2 and teachers to go back to France to visit one of the  
3 sites where AREVA has operating facilities there and  
4 to witness and to experience first-hand what would be  
5 coming into our community. I must say it was a very  
6 impressive visit to say the least. It's one thing to  
7 be told about a facility. It's another thing to read  
8 about it. But it's a whole entirely different view by  
9 actually going on site and visiting.

10 We visited the Tricastin plant which was  
11 outside of the Avignon, Southern part of France, and  
12 there we visited some of the processing plants, the  
13 Georges Besse I and II plants. In addition, there  
14 were four operating and functional nuclear reactors at  
15 that time as well as the conversion facility and many,  
16 many other facilities there.

17 I have to admit I was impressed with this  
18 operation, the technology, the safeguards that were  
19 put into place that would mitigate any type of an  
20 environmental damage and incident if you will. It was  
21 really impressive. But I have to admit I still did  
22 not grasp the full technology. But I did feel  
23 comfortable with what I saw and heard.

24 What I have to tell you is what I  
25 experienced later after visiting that facility that

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1 really caught my attention that basically convinced me  
2 that this would be a good fit for our communities.  
3 There is a small city of 13,000 people Pierrelatte  
4 that was literally in the backyard of the Tricastin  
5 facility. I had the opportunity to meet the mayor of  
6 Pierrelatte along with many of their teachers and  
7 other students. I was able to talk to some of their  
8 citizens. I was able to visit their city and to see  
9 that it was a vibrant community with many children and  
10 adults.

11 I asked the hard questions to the elected  
12 officials. I talked to the students and the parents  
13 and asked questions about the facility. Was there any  
14 negative effects? If so, please tell me what they  
15 would be. We didn't receive any. The Tricastin plant  
16 has been operational for several years and I saw no  
17 visible or negative effects to their communities.

18 I was also able to see first-hand AREVA's  
19 sustainable development philosophy of protecting the  
20 environment, the transparency as well as their  
21 contributions to the communities around the site. One  
22 thing that caught my eye if I may just elaborate just  
23 for a moment.

24 There was a crocodile reserve near this  
25 facility and when we first heard that why in the world

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1 would there be a crocodile reserve in the middle of  
2 France. And it used to be a very large greenhouse.  
3 But what AREVA has done is they actually took some of  
4 the water, the spent or used water that they had in  
5 their plants, and they piped it into these two  
6 enclosed greenhouses if you will that used to be  
7 greenhouses that had been converted into a crocodile  
8 reserve. In there, they heat and provide a climate  
9 there for over 400 endangered crocodiles and  
10 tortoises. And what a great boon it was to their  
11 economy and to the city itself. The water would be  
12 piped in there. It would heat the greenhouses, if you  
13 will, and then the water went back into the river.  
14 Very impressive. Again, I would say that this trip  
15 was probably the best education I could have ever  
16 received as a mayor to see first-hand of being  
17 responsible for our community.

18 Then I took it a step further in looking  
19 at the impact that AREVA, this facility, would  
20 actually have on the City of Idaho Falls. First of  
21 all, the thing that caught my eye along with many  
22 others was the \$5 billion that this would be bringing  
23 into our economy over the next 25 to 30 years.

24 But I had to look at it from another  
25 position of the worst case scenarios. I looked at how

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1 many employees would be involved in the construction  
2 phase which would be around 1,000. Then there would  
3 be close to 300 other employees that would be working  
4 full-time and if they would overlap during the  
5 construction phase. So I had to look and see how our  
6 city would be impacted by that.

7 I first looked at our housing. Would we  
8 have enough housing if, worst case scenario, all 1350  
9 employees resided within Idaho Falls itself. We  
10 looked at the property, the housing, and it would be a  
11 little bit of a stretch. But fortunately we have  
12 plenty of ground and property that would be available  
13 and the housing market could and would sustain that.

14 Then I had to look hard at the schools.  
15 Would they be able to accommodate? Our two school  
16 districts within this area and there would be room  
17 enough for that.

18 I had to look at our infrastructure, our  
19 roads and our utilities and again there would not be a  
20 negative impact on our community as a result of that.

21 I looked at the transportation issues to  
22 and from the facilities including the transportation  
23 of the low level waste that would be produced from the  
24 AREVA plant. Again, we have seen and have  
25 demonstrated and been taught in proven demonstration

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1 of the DOE's effectiveness in shipping out the waste  
2 from our facilities on the property.

3 I looked at the water level and usage to  
4 impact that it may have and found out that the water  
5 would not be a significant impact at all. In fact,  
6 it's going to be considerably less water usage than  
7 what's currently being used on the property right now.

8 At the end of the day, I have complete  
9 confidence that this facility would not have a  
10 negative impact on our communities. I feel very  
11 comfortable, very confident, with that.

12 But most important, I guess what brings me  
13 the most confidence is prior to going to France myself  
14 along with several members of our Idaho delegation,  
15 local delegation, was able to visit the NRC  
16 Headquarters and we spent a couple of hours there,  
17 three hours, where we actually were able to meet many  
18 of the staff, some of them that are here today, as  
19 well as the past chairman and the current chairman.  
20 And we were able as a delegation to be able to ask  
21 those hard questions and what are they going to look  
22 at because they are representing us. And I was very  
23 impressed with that visit, the answers that they gave  
24 us and we're very excited for AREVA to come in here.  
25 I have complete confidence that the NRC will do their

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1 jobs as we'll continue to do ours.

2 Thank you very much.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Mayor.  
4 And this is Ann Rydalch and then we're going to hear  
5 from Beatrice.

6 MS. RYDALCH: My name is Ann Rydalch and  
7 I've been a resident of Bonneville County for most of  
8 my adult life. I've served 11 years in the Idaho  
9 legislature, seven years in the Senate and four years  
10 in the House. I'm here tonight as chair of the Energy  
11 Committee for the National Foundation for Women  
12 Legislators and that in and of itself is maybe not the  
13 important thing. But the important thing about that  
14 is that I'm able to take our scientists and engineers  
15 in the past four years at these committee meetings and  
16 educate people from throughout the nation about energy  
17 issues and the strength and support and the workforce  
18 that we have already intact at the Idaho National Lab  
19 as well as here in our community.

20 I'm writing in support of AREVA Enrichment  
21 Services license application to construct and operate  
22 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. AREVA has safely  
23 operated nuclear facilities for almost three decade  
24 and we'll be able to bring that experience to bear in  
25 operating this facility.

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1 Stringent NRC federal and state  
2 regulations will be met by AREVA before it is granted  
3 a license for the construction and operation of this  
4 facility. Why do we know that? Because AREVA has  
5 safely run operation facilities for more than half a  
6 century and they are bringing this proven and safe  
7 operational experience here. Therefore, any issues  
8 raised that are not directly related to your already  
9 stringent process of the environmental and safety  
10 impacts should be dismissed. Let me repeat that. Any  
11 issues raised that are not related to your already  
12 stringent process of the environmental and safety  
13 impacts should be dismissed.

14 How do we know Idaho or other support  
15 states support this facility? Idaho has proven that  
16 already and there are no Idaho taxes going into  
17 support this facility. My NFWL Energy Committee  
18 consists of numerous current and past elected  
19 officials from different states throughout the nation  
20 and we are on record with several resolutions to the  
21 Administration and Congress that I've guided through  
22 that committee regarding the importance of a sound  
23 energy policy urging the inclusion of nuclear in that  
24 clean energy mix.

25 This means then that safe and efficient

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1 uranium enrichment in the United States is necessary  
2 if our country is going to meet the Clean Energy goals  
3 being demanded. Did I knock it out?

4 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I don't know. Are  
5 you picking it up?

6 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

7 MS. RYDALCH: So let me just go back then.

8 This means that safe and efficient uranium enrichment  
9 in the United States is necessary if our country is  
10 going to meet the clean energy goals that are being  
11 demanded in the public today. The Eagle Rock  
12 Enrichment Facility will help guarantee a secure  
13 supply of enrichment services for these necessary  
14 commercial nuclear reactors.

15 I understand that regulations and  
16 licensing processes are necessary and you do them very  
17 well at NRC for large capital investments. However, a  
18 clear and streamlined expeditious process is equally  
19 as important and because of past practices any  
20 environmental questions will be addressed by AREVA  
21 through the environmental impact statement process as  
22 well. You can't dismiss a half century of expertise  
23 which they have. I urge the NRC to process this  
24 application as quickly as possible.

25 Thanks.

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1 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,  
2 Ann. I think that we don't have any audio. So I'm  
3 just going to have people if you can try to speak as  
4 loudly as you can.

5 Terry, are you picking this up? You're  
6 picking it up. So it will be on the transcript but  
7 obviously we want to make sure that all of you hear  
8 back here. So if you're having difficulty hearing the  
9 speaker just wave your hand and we're trying to get  
10 the audio fixed now.

11 Beatrice, would you like to join us up  
12 front? And we'll see how well everybody can hear you.

13 MS. BRAILSFORD: Of course, when I get up.

14 FACILITATOR CAMERON: I knew you were going  
15 to say that.

16 MS. BRAILSFORD: My name is Beatrice  
17 Brailsford. I'm with the Snake River Alliance,  
18 Idaho's nuclear watchdog, and advocate for renewal  
19 energy. AREVA's plans to build a uranium enrichment  
20 plant in Eastern Idaho must be fully analyzed under  
21 the National Environmental Policy Act.

22 Though many active groups and individuals  
23 in Idaho are familiar with the NEPA process we are far  
24 less familiar with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's  
25 licensing review process. I appreciate the

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1 information offered here this evening and encourage  
2 NRC to continue to try to explain the NEPA process,  
3 the licensing review process, the mandatory hearing  
4 process, so that we can all be involved.

5 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should  
6 include in its NEPA analysis the following:

7 (1) Need, one of the most important parts  
8 of an EIS and one that traditionally short shrift is a  
9 discussion of the purpose and need for the proposed  
10 action. In the present case, the NRC must  
11 realistically describe the worldwide enrichment  
12 capacity, both current and licensed but not yet  
13 constructed.

14 The NRC's consideration must factor in  
15 continuing down-blending of surplus weapons grade,  
16 highly enriched uranium from Russian and U.S.  
17 stockpiles. It must consider as reasonable expansion  
18 of already operating plants. Since the United States  
19 continues to pursue a mixed oxide plant to produce  
20 commercial power reactor fuel MOX fuel must be  
21 analyzed as additional supply.

22 The fact that AREVA sought and received  
23 local and state tax incentives and has applied for a  
24 \$2 billion Federal loan guarantee may be indications  
25 that the plant facility's project will not be needed.

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1 (2) Waste. In addition to the new action  
2 and a single proposed action alternative, the NRC must  
3 analyze the impacts, environmental, economic and  
4 social, of long-term, indefinite storage of all the  
5 depleted uranium hexafluoride the plant will ever  
6 produce. Waste storage on the magnitude contemplated  
7 by AREVA constitutes a separate action that must be  
8 analyzed as a part of the entire enrichment plant and  
9 on its own since it's quite likely the storage will  
10 extend beyond the production lifetime of the plant and  
11 perhaps even beyond the optimal lifetime of the  
12 storage cylinders.

13 The draft EIS must also analyze the costs  
14 of indefinite storage at AREVA's plant and a  
15 description of the financial assurances for that  
16 storage discussed in the safety evaluation report  
17 should be referenced in the draft EIS. Those  
18 financial assurances are particularly important in  
19 light of AREVA's difficult financial situation.

20 Final disposal of AREVA's waste is not a  
21 given. Though two deconversion plants are under  
22 construction in Ohio and Kentucky and International  
23 Isotopes plans a third in New Mexico, the current  
24 Department of Energy inventory of depleted UF-6 is  
25 substantial and will take decades to process. The

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1 operating lifetimes of the two deconversion plants  
2 currently under construction may not well include the  
3 added inventory from the LES plant in New Mexico and  
4 the one under consideration here. The environmental  
5 impacts of decades of deconversion must be analyzed.

6 Even if deconversion finally occurs, the  
7 Nuclear Regulatory Commission itself acknowledges the  
8 disposal of large quantities of depleted uranium  
9 presents stiff challenges. The draft EIS should  
10 include a full analysis of these challenges and a  
11 discussion of the rule-making process that will begin  
12 this fall to establish guidelines for DU disposal and  
13 how or whether the rule-making and current licensing  
14 processes can proceed simultaneously.

15 The full range of real life disposal  
16 facilities that might be used must be discussed in the  
17 EIS and I do mean here real life addresses capacity,  
18 etc. The environmental impacts of disposal at each of  
19 these facilities must be fully analyzed and the  
20 effected communities involved.

21 (3) Proliferation. Uranium enrichment has  
22 been used to produce nuclear bomb material and can  
23 most certainly be used to do so again. That is the  
24 basis for the international concerns surrounding  
25 Iran's enrichment activities.

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1 A full weapons proliferation analysis must  
2 be included in the draft EIS on AREVA's plant. That  
3 analysis must include both a technical discussion and  
4 a discussion by the U.S. Departments of State and  
5 Energy and the White House of their efforts to curtail  
6 uranium enrichment elsewhere and whether or not those  
7 efforts are affected by commercial enrichment in this  
8 country.

9 I appreciate the gentleman in the red  
10 shirt's comments questioning why the International  
11 Atomic Energy Agency isn't involved and I would like  
12 that question answered in the draft EIS.

13 (4) Public Process. As noted, AREVA's  
14 proposed uranium enrichment plant has the potential to  
15 effect people and the environment in a number of other  
16 states and countries and its effects here in Idaho are  
17 broader than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission might  
18 know. AREVA sought and received state sales tax  
19 breaks from the Idaho legislature essentially making  
20 everyone in Idaho an underwriter of the proposed  
21 plant.

22 AREVA itself recognizes the effects of its  
23 proposal go beyond Idaho Falls and Eastern Idaho. It  
24 is therefore incumbent upon the NRC to reach out as  
25 well. The NRC should hold public meetings on the

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1 draft environmental impact across Southern Idaho.

2 Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR CAMERON: And our next speaker  
4 is, and I hope I get this right, it's Ericka Gianetto  
5 Trevor Casper. Is that right?

6 MS. GIANETTO: Yes.

7 FACILITATOR CAMERON: All right. And then  
8 we're going to go to Jack Barraclough. But this is  
9 Ericka.

10 MS. GIANETTO: My name is Ericka Gianetto  
11 and this is Trevor Casper. We are here tonight  
12 representing the Greater Youth of Idaho Falls as well  
13 as the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. Will any of  
14 the youth in the room please stand up.

15 As you can see, we are well represented  
16 and these are the students that we are representing.  
17 The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council - You may be  
18 seated. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council has  
19 prepared a statement which we will now read. We would  
20 like to direct our statement to the public who have  
21 concerns about the AREVA facility, but we would hope  
22 that the speech we are going to present is helpful to  
23 the NRC.

24 MR. CASPER: The Mayor's Youth Advisory  
25 Council is a group of 45 high school students and our

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1 goal is to give the youth in our community a voice as  
2 well as to increase youth involvement in the  
3 community.

4 Last March 20th, the Mayor's Youth  
5 Advisory Council members had the opportunity to visit  
6 AREVA's Tricastin site and the Georges Besse II  
7 facility which is nearly identical to the proposed  
8 Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

9 MS. GIANETTO: We were impressed by the  
10 cleanliness of the facility and AREVA's commitment to  
11 the surrounding ecosystems. The cleanliness of the  
12 site decreased the possibilities of negative  
13 environmental impacts of the construction phase. This  
14 demonstrated to us that AREVA understands its  
15 obligation and is dedicated to providing a safe  
16 facility.

17 MR. CASPER: During the trip, we also  
18 learned about the core values of AREVA, particularly  
19 about transparency. AREVA's transparency means that  
20 they are very open about potential problems and  
21 current concerns. We learned how AREVA wants to  
22 communicate with and be involved with the community so  
23 that the public is comfortable with the facility.

24 MS. GIANETTO: We also learned about  
25 sustainable development which is a primary value of

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1 AREVA. Sustainable development means the development  
2 which meets the needs of the current generation  
3 without compromising the ability of future generations  
4 to meet their own needs and we feel that this is  
5 important as it is our generations that the changes  
6 will affect.

7 For AREVA, this means examining several  
8 areas to determine whether a given development is  
9 sustainable including economic, social and  
10 environmental responsibilities. Sustainable  
11 development also means that AREVA is committed to  
12 shrinking their own environmental footprint as well as  
13 benefitting local environments where the sites are  
14 going to be located. Because AREVA is a sustainable  
15 development company, environmental stewardship is  
16 another core value of AREVA.

17 MR. CASPER: After reviewing the  
18 environmental report, we understand the concerns of  
19 the community. We don't want to see local water  
20 resources put at risk, local air quality or wildlife  
21 harmed or the geology and soils contaminated.

22 From our research and our personal hands-  
23 on experience, however, we have concluded that AREVA  
24 is taking necessary precautions and steps towards  
25 being an environmental steward and taking the

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1 community's concerns seriously.

2 MS. GIANETTO: We would like to urge the  
3 community to do research of their own so that they may  
4 fully understand AREVA's commitment to the  
5 environment, the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility and to  
6 the community of the Greater City of Idaho Falls.

7 Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you  
9 very much, Ericka and Trevor. Thank you.

10 And we're next going to go to Jack  
11 Barraclough, Hunter Gray, Rod Fuger and then we're  
12 going to hear from Liz Woodruff.

13 MR. BARRACLOUGH: My name is Jack  
14 Barraclough. I'm a certified professional hydrologist  
15 and of my four score plus years I've studied  
16 environmental studies and the Aquifer for three score  
17 of those. And if you need an interpretation I'll be  
18 glad to help you on that.

19 I have studied the AREVA application and  
20 have met with them several times and find this to be a  
21 very worthwhile project and something that the country  
22 needs is to increase our use of nuclear energy for  
23 electrical production and other uses. This is a  
24 project that has been long needed.

25 Over the years, I have served 35 years

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1 with the Geological Survey as a research project chief  
2 and hydrologist. I've served 10 years with EG&G and  
3 Lockheed and 14 years in the Idaho legislature of  
4 which eight I was committee chairman.

5 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Jack, could you just  
6 step back a little bit from the mike? Not too far.

7 MR. BARRACLOUGH: Beatrice, what did you  
8 do?

9 (Laughter.)

10 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Because our  
11 transcriber, Terry, is getting sort of an echo.

12 (Off the record comment.)

13 FACILITATOR CAMERON: Go ahead, Jack.

14 MR. BARRACLOUGH: Beatrice didn't have to  
15 put a hex on this.

16 I have worked in 12 different states on  
17 environmental issues and been to every nuclear  
18 facility in evaluation mode such as Hanford, Oak  
19 Ridge, Savannah River, Nevada Test Site and others.  
20 I've worked at every commercial burial ground for  
21 radioactive waste in the country as an overseer and  
22 reviewer.

23 The water resources issue is one that  
24 we've studied for 60 years. In fact, if there's any  
25 unintentional or intentional disposal it will travel

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1 from the facility to the southwest and the travel path  
2 would be over 100 miles before it encounters any use  
3 of the water.

4 The Snake River Plain Aquifer which we've  
5 studied in INL and over all the state is about as  
6 potential or as about a provident, useful, perennial  
7 supply. No wells at INL in the 60 years have gone dry  
8 even during drought periods and it's because the wells  
9 were drilled deep enough, constructed in permeable  
10 fractured basalt and the annual fluctuations are  
11 yearly fluctuations or periodic fluctuations which are  
12 somewhere between 10 and 15 feet. So even though  
13 there's a drought, the water level fluctuates, but it  
14 doesn't go and cause the wells to go dry. So the  
15 wells are properly constructed.

16 And early on I used the figure that  
17 there's probably about enough water in the Snake River  
18 Plain Aquifer as in Lake Erie. And even though we do  
19 identify every drought period, we see that there's no  
20 wells go dry. So the water supply is really permanent  
21 and a good water supply.

22 The waste disposal, we've studied every  
23 issue INL on what waste was used, where they were  
24 discharged and what the effect was and the Aquifer has  
25 an ability to disperse and dilute any waste that are

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1 introduced. So the travel paths while being very,  
2 very long, the waste actually travels slower than that  
3 because of different physical and chemical processes.

4 I've studied different energy overseas at  
5 a number of countries and Ericka is missing the boat  
6 with much of the rest of the world that can afford any  
7 use of nuclear energy is way ahead of us. We have 103  
8 operating plants and produce 20 percent of our  
9 electricity and there's a number of plants on the  
10 drawing board. All of them are for facilities that  
11 already have a nuclear plant. But there's a good  
12 chance in the next near future that some of those will  
13 be developed.

14 So the use of taking depleted uranium from  
15 used nuclear fuel from reactors, where generally only  
16 about 5 percent of the nuclear energy is used, and  
17 it's just the right recycling way to go, and I can't  
18 think of a place in the country that's had more  
19 experience with storing and using and processing  
20 nuclear fuel than right next door at INEL.

21 AREVA can build that plant without waste  
22 problems, without aquifer problems, without disposal  
23 problems, and it's the right place and the right time.

24 I also want to mention that I'm on the  
25 board of partnership for Science and Technology.

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1 Thank you for this opportunity to share a few words  
2 with you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank  
4 you, Jack.

5 Hunter Gray and Rod Fuger. Is Hunter Gray  
6 here?

7 [No response]

8 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Is this Rod?

9 MR. FUGER: Yes.

10 MR. CAMERON: Okay. This is Rod Fuger.

11 MR. FUGER: Good evening. My name is Rod  
12 Fuger. I am president of the Auto Building Trade and  
13 Construction Council. The council consists of 13  
14 affiliated unions and represents thousands of  
15 residents, Idaho workers that are highly trained,  
16 skilled and productive.

17 We're the workers that have built the  
18 projects, at the INEL since the first shuttle was  
19 moved 50 years ago.

20 I, like other union members, reside and  
21 work in surrounding communities in Southern Idaho.  
22 Not only do we raise our children in Idaho. We have  
23 our brothers, our sisters, our parents and  
24 grandparents who live in Southern Idaho.

25 If we felt that this project would harm

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1 any of our family, or other Idahoans, we'd be in  
2 opposition to the AREVA Project.

3 The INEL has been the proving ground with  
4 previous projects, has been built and will be built in  
5 the future, such as AREVA, and will be built and  
6 maintained in a safe, productive manner.

7 Not only because of the employment and  
8 economic benefits. The men and women of the Auto  
9 Building Trades Council are certain that AREVA will be  
10 a good neighbor and a positive influence in our  
11 community.

12 The Auto Building Trades Council fully  
13 supports this project and will assist AREVA in any  
14 manner for a successful project. Thank you.

15 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Rod. And we're  
16 going to go to Liz Woodruff at this point, and then to  
17 Nathan McMasters, and then to Andrea Shipley.

18 MS. WOODRUFF: Thank you for the  
19 opportunity, to the NRC staff, to testify tonight on  
20 this critical issue that is of great importance to the  
21 residents of Idaho Falls, but also to Idahoans across  
22 the state.

23 My name is Liz--[lights flash on and off].  
24 And I have the power to turn off the lights with my  
25 voice. No; no.

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1 I'm an energy policy analyst for the Snake  
2 River Alliance. A large part of my work is to ensure  
3 that the public at large is informed about energy  
4 issues and is also given the opportunity to share  
5 their concerns and perspectives in both state and  
6 federal processes.

7 I would like to speak tonight about why it  
8 is so critical, that the National Research Council  
9 conduct public meetings throughout the state, as a way  
10 of enabling a robust and comprehensive EIS comment  
11 period, that reflects the breadth of diverse concerns  
12 Idahoans have over the proposed AREVA uranium  
13 enrichment facility.

14 There are two main reasons that the  
15 proposed facility is a statewide issue.

16 First. In 2008, the Idaho legislature  
17 passed two pieces of legislation that incentivized  
18 AREVA's choice of our state for this facility.

19 House Bill 562 capped AREVA's property  
20 taxes at the first 400 million the company invests in  
21 this project, so long as it spends at least one  
22 billion on the project.

23 And I'll note that there was not  
24 overwhelming support, necessarily, in the Idaho  
25 legislature for this particular piece of legislation.

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1 There were 38 nays across both houses of the  
2 legislature.

3 House Bill 561 gives AREVA a sales tax  
4 exemption for production equipment. In passing these  
5 unique incentives, our legislature forfeited the  
6 ability of all Idahoans to collect the typical dues  
7 other manufacturers would pay, and in so doing, made  
8 this a statewide issue.

9 As the implications of this facility are  
10 examined in the EIS process, all Idahoans should have  
11 access to public meetings which inform the EIS.

12 Secondly, as those who testified before  
13 me, Beatrice, in particular, have detailed, the  
14 radioactive waste that would be produced by the  
15 proposed facility is particularly problematic, and  
16 proposes a series of questions unique to the uranium  
17 enrichment process, which all Idahoans should be made  
18 aware of and have the ability to comment on.

19 While the NRC has now classified depleted  
20 uranium, it recognizes DU as a unique waste stream  
21 which requires specific rules for disposal which are  
22 not yet determined.

23 Additionally, the U.S. still lacks an  
24 operational deconversion facility for depleted uranium  
25 hexafluoride. These issues put Idahoans in the

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1 position of housing a substance that increases in  
2 radioactivity in time, and has nowhere to go but the  
3 location it was produced, right here in Idaho, for an  
4 indefinite period of time.

5 And I would argue that Idaho, as a whole,  
6 is the place of impact for this plant.

7 It is in the public interest, and in the  
8 interest of preserving the integrity of the NRC  
9 process, that additional public meetings are held  
10 throughout the State of Idaho. Thank you for your  
11 time and consideration.

12 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Liz.

13 Is Nathan here? Nathan McMasters. Hi,  
14 Nathan.

15 MR. MCMASTERS: Good evening. My name is  
16 Nathan McMasters. I'm the president of Diversified  
17 Metal Products. We're a specialty metal fabricator,  
18 here, in Idaho Falls. We've been in Idaho Falls for  
19 about 20 years.

20 I represent myself, my family, and our 15  
21 employees, when I say welcome to AREVA and the Eagle  
22 Rock Enrichment Facility.

23 For those of us "in the know," we're a  
24 fabricator of pressure vessels and things for the  
25 nuclear industry, so I'm a little "tilted," I guess.

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1 But for those not so in the know, we're a fabricator  
2 of big shiny stainless things for the nuclear  
3 industry.

4 So those of you who are concerned possibly  
5 about the regulation in the nuclear industry, it is  
6 the most regulated industry in the United States, and  
7 I can assure you of that. There's a lot that I can't  
8 speak to, but I can speak to the regulation of the  
9 nuclear industry.

10 They're nothing if not thorough. In fact,  
11 we have a saying at Diversified that says if the  
12 paperwork weighs as much as the product, we've done  
13 our job.

14 So I urge the NRC, absolutely, to look at  
15 water usage, power usage, all these sorts of things.  
16 But if they're like most of us here, they'll realize  
17 that it's absolutely a net positive to our area. I'd  
18 also like to point out that--I mean, if you're like  
19 me, you've seen nothing but thorough professionalism  
20 out of AREVA.

21 I've been nothing but impressed with  
22 everything I've seen out of them; everything I've  
23 heard them say; everything I've seen in the newspaper.

24 I mean, everything says that they're  
25 absolutely a great company. So, in closing, I'd just

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1 like to say absolutely yes, and welcome to AREVA and  
2 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. Thank you.

3 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.

4 And Andrea. Andrea Shipley.

5 MS. SHIPLEY: After my colleagues spoke,  
6 I'm a bit scared to step up to the microphone.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak  
8 publicly this evening. My name is Andrea Shipley and  
9 I'm the executive director of the Snake River  
10 Alliance.

11 I would like to echo my colleagues'  
12 concerns this evening, and also share some of the  
13 research that the Alliance has conducted on AREVA.

14 Through our research, we've learned that  
15 the French-owned company has a troubling track record  
16 across the globe. We are concerned that AREVA would  
17 not make a very good neighbor due to its industrial  
18 track record globally, the waste it will potentially  
19 leave in Idaho, and we would like to encourage the  
20 National Research Council to hold public meetings  
21 throughout Idaho.

22 The rest of Idaho deserves a chance to  
23 make comments about the inevitable consequences of  
24 uranium enrichment.

25 The focus of my testimony tonight will be

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1 to highlight some of the business practices on record  
2 that have led to human rights infringement, water and  
3 land contaminations, and radioactive leaks.

4 AREVA runs the reprocessing plant in  
5 LeHavre, France, where that single facility pours one  
6 million gallons of radioactive liquid into the English  
7 Channel each year, and has contaminated the seas from  
8 France clear to the Arctic Circle. AREVA has also  
9 mined uranium in Niger for the past 40 years. An  
10 activist there accused it of destroying the lives and  
11 livelihood of indigenous people and of depleting  
12 groundwater.

13 Geiger counters took readings around that  
14 Nigerian community and found that local water supplies  
15 were radiologically contaminated at ten times the  
16 World Health Organization's level for safe drinking  
17 water.

18 Subsequent findings also uncovered rocks  
19 outside the AREVA-owned hospital were 10 times more  
20 radioactive than normal background levels.

21 And more recently, in France, during the  
22 summer of 2008, a series of radioactive leaks and  
23 spills at AREVA-owned facilities cast doubt on the  
24 company's safety and environmental management. During  
25 the worst instance in Southern France, where

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1 radioactivity leaked into two rivers and entered the  
2 groundwater, the company waited 16 hours before  
3 warning the public.

4 These are just some of AREVA's business  
5 practice on record. The Environmental Impact  
6 Statement must take AREVA's track record as part of  
7 the context of its study to truly reflect what is at  
8 stake for Idaho's air, water, land and people.

9 This proposed facility is simply not worth  
10 the risks. Despite its worldwide reach, AREVA can  
11 only survive financially as long as the French  
12 government props it up.

13 The risks of nuclear waste, contamination  
14 and proliferation, that are the inevitable  
15 consequences of uranium enrichment will be ours to  
16 bear.

17 Please consider holding public meetings  
18 throughout the state in order to get a record of these  
19 concerns, and many others. Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Andrea.

21 Let's next go to Cindy Smith-Putnam, Rob  
22 Childs, and Marty Hubner. Hi, Cindy.

23 MS. SMITH-PUTNAM: I'm going to break it,  
24 for sure. [Microphone falls off stand]

25 My name is Cindy Smith-Putnam. I'm here

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1 tonight speaking on behalf of Eastern Idaho Regional  
2 Medical Center, which is the third largest private  
3 employer in Bonneville County.

4 And I'm here to offer the unique vantage  
5 point of a local private business that has no direct  
6 stake in uranium enrichment, commercial nuclear power,  
7 AREVA, or any other of the wondrous and highly  
8 technical things that occur out there in the desert.

9 We don't make any of the shiny stainless  
10 things, even, although we use some of them in our  
11 operating rooms.

12 Nevertheless, the indirect and positive  
13 impacts of AREVA's license application are very clear  
14 to us, and that prompts my comments tonight on behalf  
15 of the hospital in support of this license  
16 application, and in requesting the NRC's thorough,  
17 effective and efficient review and completion of this  
18 licensing process.

19 The indirect impacts we welcome are the  
20 project's potential for new, better, and more  
21 environmentally reasonable solutions to decades-old  
22 energy problems.

23 We seek an energy future which is safe,  
24 sound, and sustainable, and our view is that that must  
25 consist of a balanced energy portfolio, a mix of the

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1 traditional sources that we've always used.

2 But even though we have become overly  
3 reliant on them, with a host of painful consequences,  
4 environmental, that are coming with that overreliance,  
5 it must include a new focus on tapping into  
6 renewables, and the inescapable conclusion that it  
7 must include readily available and plentiful sources  
8 of commercial nuclear power.

9 If we are right about that, it logically  
10 follows that we also need new domestic uranium  
11 enrichment facilities and new commercial nuclear power  
12 plants.

13 And with regard to the former, we support  
14 the application and the siting of AREVA's Eagle Rock  
15 Enrichment Facility.

16 The process that you described, early on,  
17 in your slides, and with that of your staff, is  
18 incredibly impressive in its scope and its  
19 thoroughness.

20 In fact, it's so painstaking, that  
21 probably to citizens like us, and maybe even sometimes  
22 you, in doing your daily work, it might feel something  
23 like watching paint dry.

24 Nothing about this appears to be loosey-  
25 goosey, and that's okay. That's a good thing, and

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1 it's confidence-inspiring for all of this in our room,  
2 no matter what our viewpoint, because ultimately, it's  
3 our guarantee as citizens, that decisions are made  
4 that are in the public interest, where input is sought  
5 and considered, and even if a final decision and  
6 report can't make everyone happy, everyone must agree  
7 on the integrity and exhaustiveness of the review,  
8 which means that we can also support the ultimate  
9 decision.

10 EIRMC expects and trusts that the NRC will  
11 conduct a thorough review of the environmental impact  
12 and public safety issues inherent in a project of this  
13 magnitude, with a keen eye on land use, water impacts,  
14 air quality and transportation considerations.

15 We further expect and trust that that  
16 rigorous review will be grounded in science, just like  
17 the health care decisions that occur in our hospital  
18 every day, we trust and expect that the NRC will be  
19 unmoved by opinion, emotion or rhetoric.

20 We are confident that within that  
21 framework, you will find, as we have, that the  
22 applicant, the application, the project and the site,  
23 are all poised to make safe, significant, and positive  
24 contributions to our national energy policy, to our  
25 state's brain trust and economy, and to our local

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1 proud claim to be one of the brightest technology and  
2 energy lights in all the world.

3 Those with the greatest stake in the  
4 safety and environmental aspects of this project are,  
5 of course, those of us who live and do business near  
6 the proposed project.

7 EIRMC and our 1300 employees fit that  
8 description.

9 NRC is not new to Idaho Falls. NRC has  
10 been here many times before, and I believe it's not  
11 lost on you, that we are a community who is perhaps  
12 unique in the depth and richness of our understanding  
13 of the relative benefits and risks of work in the  
14 nuclear field.

15 Because of that level of understanding,  
16 which is based in science, and fostered by our daily  
17 interactions, shoulder to shoulder, with one of the  
18 most concentrated and experienced groups of experts in  
19 the field, we are also probably unique in our support  
20 for ongoing advances in nuclear work compared to other  
21 communities.

22 And not just the research in the nuclear  
23 field, but also the practical applications of that  
24 work.

25 Another way our community is unique is

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1 that we are blessed with a large number of active and  
2 involved corporate citizens, companies who link arms,  
3 donate money, donate time to make this a better place  
4 to live. And you said that part of your analysis  
5 would be the socioeconomic impact of this application.

6 So it's significant for you to know that  
7 AREVA has already shown itself to be a kindred spirit  
8 in this way. Embracing its obligation and privilege  
9 to look beyond the laws of its business, and to the  
10 interests of our broader community, they have already  
11 stepped up with numerous examples of donations,  
12 community leadership, community involvement, and we  
13 welcome and embrace those.

14 In fact, as a person who writes many, many  
15 checks of corporate philanthropy, the idea of another  
16 "deep pocket" in this town is pretty cool and I'm not  
17 ashamed to admit it.

18 I thank you for considering this input,  
19 and we wish you well in your important work.

20 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much.

21 Thank you, Cindy, and now we're going to  
22 hear from--is this Rob?

23 MR. CHILDS: Yes.

24 MR. CAMERON: Rob Childs. And then we're  
25 going to go to Marty Hubner and then Dave Hensel.

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1 MR. CHILDS: Thank you. Good evening. My  
2 name is Rob Childs. I'm the president and CEO of the  
3 Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, and chairman  
4 of the Idaho Chamber Alliance.

5 On behalf of our 900-plus Chamber members  
6 in this community, the 26 Chambers across the State of  
7 Idaho, we'd like to welcome you back to Idaho and to  
8 our community.

9 Our specific Chamber of Commerce, we have  
10 a committee called the Science, Technology and Energy  
11 Committee, and we've been reviewing AREVA's  
12 environmental report, and have reviewed information  
13 regarding the centrifuge technology and we feel  
14 comfortable endorsing AREVA's application to build and  
15 operate the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

16 We've had the opportunity to get to know  
17 AREVA, and appreciate the company's interest in  
18 creating a positive business climate.

19 AREVA has shown its commitment to our  
20 community by opening an office and becoming a part of  
21 our community. AREVA has demonstrated a willingness  
22 to communicate with us whenever we have questions with  
23 regard to their application.

24 We also recognize and appreciate the work  
25 of the NRC. It gives our community confidence in

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1 knowing how thorough the EIS process will be.

2 Our comments regarding the appropriate  
3 scope and content is as follows.

4 We believe the following issues should be  
5 addressed in the draft EIS, including waste  
6 management, noise, air and water issues, land use,  
7 historic and cultural issues, potential health  
8 impacts, and socioeconomic issues.

9 In closing, we feel confident that Eagle  
10 Rock Enrichment Facility will bring benefits to our  
11 community, state, and nation while safeguarding our  
12 environment. That's it. We encourage you to  
13 thoroughly--and just like everybody else has said--  
14 let's do this pretty quick. So with that, thank you  
15 very much.

16 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Rob. Thank you.

17 And Marty.

18 MR. SKINNER: Marty had to leave. I have  
19 his written statement and I'll submit that.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much.

21 Dave Hensel.

22 MR. HENSEL: Hello. My name is Dave  
23 Hensel. I live in Teton County, Idaho, and I want to  
24 thank the NRC for hosting this event, and I want to  
25 thank everyone here for attending.

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1           It's really one of the greatest things, I  
2 think, about our political process, is that we can all  
3 get together and discuss these issues.

4           I just have a couple things I want to  
5 mention. Some of them have been touched on before.  
6 One of our elected representatives, early on, talked  
7 about the difference between enriched uranium for  
8 commercial power generation and enriching uranium to  
9 use in nuclear weapons, and I understand that there is  
10 a difference.

11           But I think a big danger, or a problem  
12 that we face as a country, is that it's not obvious to  
13 everyone that that's a difference.

14           A few years ago, as part of a  
15 justification for going to war, we were told that a  
16 country had bought yellowcake and was obtaining  
17 yellowcake so that they could start producing nuclear  
18 bombs.

19           And as I understand it, yellowcake is one  
20 step further removed from this process than enrichment  
21 is.

22           The United States, we're fairly  
23 sophisticated with media, we have a great educational  
24 system, a high level of literacy, but that was  
25 presented to the population as a reason to go to war,

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1 and eventually, it was proven to be a false report.

2 But I think what's interesting about it  
3 was, is the public opinion, it was molded by this  
4 information and people were afraid. We were ready to  
5 go to war because a country was going to start  
6 producing nuclear weapons.

7 And so if we tell everyone that we don't  
8 want other nations developing nuclear weapons, that  
9 enriching uranium is a dangerous thing, and poses a  
10 security threat, then I think we have to be very  
11 careful, as a country, with what we do, and not only  
12 with what we say, and so I would question, and I don't  
13 know, this is probably outside the scope of what you  
14 can look at but I think it is an important question to  
15 ask--is do the people in Pakistan, do the people in  
16 North Korea, do the people in Venezuela, do the people  
17 in Saudi Arabia or wherever--do they understand that  
18 the United States, when we are enriching uranium, are  
19 only doing it to a certain level and not just  
20 enriching uranium, which we continually say on the  
21 international stage is the first step towards  
22 producing nuclear weapons.

23 So very, very concerned about not so much  
24 the potential for this plant to produce nuclear grade  
25 uranium. I understand that's not going to happen.

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1           But the fact that it is something that  
2 we're going to have a huge responsibility to explain  
3 to the rest of the international community.

4           Then there is the issue of nuclear waste  
5 and this has been touched on by several people. And  
6 the United States, we do not have a home for depleted  
7 uranium, and as I understand it, we don't even have a  
8 protocol for how we're going to deal with it.

9           Several people have said that let's "fast  
10 track" this, and it sort of seems to me like we're  
11 putting the cart before the horse. If we don't know  
12 what we're going to do with this, then maybe we ought  
13 to take the time, after, you know, dealing with  
14 nuclear energy and its resulted waste stream for 60  
15 years, maybe we ought to answer those fundamental  
16 questions first.

17           And then to tie in with the fact that the  
18 EIS looks at environmental justice. And as I  
19 understand it, depleted uranium becomes more deadly,  
20 i.e., more radioactive over the course of time, and it  
21 is the most dangerous after about a million years.

22           So one response would be: A million years?  
23 I'm not going to worry about that. But I think we  
24 really need to look at the question of is this  
25 something we ought to dump on, not our children or our

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1 children's children, but uncounted generations in the  
2 future.

3 We don't--we have a nuclear waste problem  
4 in this country. Yucca Mountain's dead. There's a  
5 commercial low level waste facility in Utah, located  
6 on private land, and there's lots of neighboring  
7 states and lots of foreign countries that are very  
8 excited about this, because their waste, they want to  
9 ship their waste to Utah, and the State of Utah is  
10 beginning to discover that it has very little that it  
11 can say about what comes into this licensed facility.

12 And the reality is, is that any waste that  
13 gets produced at this site, outside of Idaho Falls, is  
14 probably going to stay there for the lifetime of at  
15 least everyone in this room and probably much, much  
16 longer.

17 I also would encourage you to have more  
18 meetings, and not only in other places in Idaho, but I  
19 think in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem area. The  
20 economy in Teton Valley, for what it is right now, is  
21 fairly dependent on tourism, and the same is true of  
22 Jackson, Wyoming, West Yellowstone, all the way into  
23 Cody, Wyoming.

24 We make our money by bringing people in to  
25 see the natural wonders that we have, not because we

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1 are a repository for nuclear waste.

2 And I'm not implying that there's going to  
3 be any--it's not going to be handled well, but once  
4 again, public perception is very important, and it's  
5 kind of intangible. It's kind of hard to address in  
6 an Environmental Impact Study. But I would encourage  
7 that you try to address these issues as well as you  
8 can, and one other thing. As a part owner, I guess,  
9 in this facility, because my sales tax is going to  
10 have to make up for the sales tax this facility isn't  
11 going to be paying, I kind a consider myself a  
12 conservative.

13 And I'm a small business owner. I think  
14 small businesses are the backbone of this economy, and  
15 once again, it seems to me that there's a big  
16 corporation, which I understand is owned by the French  
17 government, and we're taking the tax dollars from  
18 people like myself, giving it to this corporation.

19 I would like to see an analysis of if the  
20 money were to go towards creating small businesses and  
21 supporting small businesses, how many new jobs would  
22 that create, and how many new jobs and how much money  
23 would that bring into the economy?

24 You know, we have this "big pie in the  
25 sky," that this big corporation is going to make us

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1 all rich.

2 Well, Citibank was a huge corporation and  
3 GM was a huge corporation, and now we're picking up  
4 the tab for them.

5 I think small businesses is where tax-  
6 subsidized money should be going. Thank you.

7 MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Thank  
8 you, Dave.

9 Is Ted Simmons here? Ted, do you want to  
10 make a comment and then we're going to go to Darwin  
11 Mecham, Josh Peterson and Larry Pettingill.

12 MR. SIMMONS : Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: You're welcome.

14 MR. SIMMONS: My name is Ted Simmons. I  
15 teach at Bonneville High School, and I wasn't planning  
16 on coming up here tonight but I just wanted to say a  
17 couple things.

18 First of all, this spring, when I was  
19 teaching nuclear physics, I actually had some students  
20 ask me questions, and that was "neat."

21 Any time a 16-year-old asks a question,  
22 it's exciting for a teacher. And the question was  
23 about AREVA and what part of the nuclear fuel cycle  
24 they were. And that was exciting to me.

25 So as a teacher, I just wanted to say that

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1 AREVA, if they're allowed to come into the area, I  
2 think they're going to have a great impact on the  
3 education of the students in the area.

4 We've seen the youth tonight come out and  
5 speak out in support, and I really feel like, as a  
6 teacher, that AREVA will be able to help us out with  
7 the education area.

8 I'm hoping that some day, I'll be able to  
9 take my students on a field trip out there, so they  
10 can see a little bit of the science that goes on.

11 But I also was part of a group in the  
12 Mayor's Youth Council that got to go over to France to  
13 see how AREVA acted. And when I was a kid, I grew up  
14 next to "Farmer Bill." Bill was his name.

15 And Farmer Bill has quite a few acres of  
16 land. But on that acreage, he had a little pile of  
17 used equipment, tractors and stuff that had been  
18 sitting for 20, 30 years.

19 And as a kid, it was fun to play on that.  
20 Of course I appreciated his little junkyard there.  
21 But as I got older, I realized what a mess that was.

22 And one of my concerns going over with the  
23 youth was that AREVA would come in, build a great big  
24 building out in the desert and then leave them there.

25 And we're all familiar with waste in Idaho, nuclear

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1 waste especially.

2 But after I was there and I saw the--who  
3 would ya--what would ya call him?--the "big wig" up  
4 there in AREVA's company, and saw their plant and  
5 their model, I really felt like they wouldn't just  
6 abandon their site and leave it behind.

7 And I'm pleased to hear the NRC, as part  
8 of their plans, they look at the decommissioning. You  
9 know, what happens after AREVA's gone?

10 So that's being inspected. So I'm pretty  
11 confident that AREVA's not going to leave that mess  
12 behind like Farmer Bill did at my muddy road. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Ted.

15 How about Darwin? Darwin Mecham.

16 MR. MECHAM: I'm Darwin Mecham and I hope  
17 I bring a different perspective to the hearings that  
18 are here tonight than what you've heard. Most of the  
19 comments you've heard are anticipatory, either on one  
20 side or the other.

21 I bring a comment of perspective. For the  
22 last year and a half, I've had the opportunity of  
23 working in a facility that is currently licensed and  
24 very nearing their first production.

25 I want to comment and say how pleased and

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1 how concerned the NRC has been at this facility, to  
2 make sure that safety concerns are met, and that from  
3 a matter of, and the standpoint of licensing,  
4 compliance and regulation, that they fulfill those  
5 requirements, and I anticipate by what they've done  
6 there, that they will do the same here.

7 I think they've done an admirable job. We  
8 can also see from what we've seen around, AREVA is  
9 very open in their letting us have information.

10 They're one of the few who actually has a  
11 blog. Now blogs are the "big thing" today. But AREVA  
12 has a blog and they are very open about what they will  
13 let you know and what they have.

14 So I'd say that openness and the nature of  
15 that, I think that's the first of its kind. Also  
16 selection of centrifuge, the gas centrifuge technology  
17 is a very good thing. Gas centrifuge is a very good  
18 and very environmentally friendly technology compared  
19 to some of the others that are there.

20 So it's efficient and it works well.

21 We'd like to thank AREVA for choosing  
22 Idaho Falls. We'd like to thank the NRC for the  
23 licensing oversight that they provide. I've had  
24 opportunities to deal with some of the NRC inspectors  
25 on the site, and to work with them, and they're very

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1 concerned that we make sure that we comply with  
2 everything as far as licensing and safety, and I'd  
3 like to thank you for the time and thank you for the  
4 opportunity.

5 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Darwin. Thank you.

6 Josh.

7 MR. PETERSON: So glad to be here. Just  
8 so you know about myself, Josh Peterson. I'm a fourth  
9 generation Idahoan from Idaho Falls. All of us grew  
10 up here, four generations, and I have a nephew and a  
11 couple, a niece growing here. So fifth generation.

12 My parents and my grandparents, both  
13 sides, have worked at Idaho National Lab, and I'm  
14 currently a student at University of Texas at Austin,  
15 a great team, and I'm having a summer internship up  
16 here. So I was excited to come here.

17 With that said, I'm studying nuclear  
18 engineering, and most of the stuff, I understand, it's  
19 actually--this is the simple stuff. Wait till you see  
20 what I do. Complex.

21 So pros of nuclear engineering. We all  
22 know, we've heard about this--two pros that I know,  
23 currently, is that it's carbon-free, which is amazing.

24 You know, we look at coal power plants, which Texas  
25 loves. But having a carbon-free environment, reducing

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1 the carbon emission, can be accomplished with nuclear  
2 power.

3 And number two. It's economical. Unlike  
4 some--even renewables right now are pretty expensive.

5 If you look at solar power, you times your utility  
6 bill by twenty, and that's what you'd pay if we all  
7 went to solar power right now, which to me is a little  
8 too much. Even though right now I live with my  
9 grandma and she pays my bills. But it's too much for  
10 her.

11 Okay. With that being said, there's cons  
12 too. The biggest con is public perception or public  
13 confidence.

14 One of the problems is people don't  
15 understand nuclear engineering. I mean, I don't even  
16 understand it half the time. And with the confidence  
17 comes safety, proliferation and waste management. And  
18 so with all these topics, I want to talk about what I  
19 think should be an Environmental Impact Assessment to  
20 deal with these problems.

21 First, about carbon emission. I don't  
22 really see a point of building nuclear power plants if  
23 we are going to enrich the facilities with coal power,  
24 electricity production.

25 So one of the things I want to see in an

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1 Environmental Impact Statement is a commitment to use  
2 renewable energies. Idaho is a great place for  
3 renewable. We currently have wind, we have  
4 hydroelectric, and we're a great place for geothermal.

5 And so I want to see in the Environmental  
6 Impact Statement a percentage, 20, 30, a 100 percent  
7 commitment to renewable energy. Renewable can include  
8 nuclear power, just so you know, because it's carbon-  
9 free. The other thing is transportation. Eighteen  
10 miles away. I we have a lot of people drive back and  
11 forth, is also going to increase the carbon emissions.

12 So I would like to see, if they're using  
13 buses, could be hybrid, or could be some sort of  
14 alternative fuel. And if there--if it's not buses,  
15 I'd like to see AREVA commit to helping the employees  
16 buy hybrid cars or to car pool.

17 As far as the concerns I see, there is a  
18 concern with proliferation, and it isn't "super easy"  
19 but it is somewhat easy to make it go from 5 percent  
20 to 95 percent. It's just tweaking a couple valves,  
21 here and there, and it's really hard to tell.

22 But the biggest concern, I think, is  
23 terrorist attacks. I think we now are going to become  
24 a target, and one thing I suggest doing is to buff up  
25 our police force and our firefighting department. I

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1 think AREVA should commit to donating money and  
2 helping support the police force and fire department.

3 The idea is not to become the best, but to be better  
4 than all the other ones.

5 And just like a house that's locked, if  
6 you have a really good security system, and the guy  
7 next door doesn't, they're going to be hit and not us.

8 And then the other thing with safety and  
9 waste management. Uranium hexafluoride is actually--  
10 it turns into a gaseous phase at high temperatures, at  
11 90, 95 percent.

12 Uranium, when it's inhaled, will go into  
13 your lungs, and the most dangerous thing is alpha  
14 decay. And so that is a concern. If we have all  
15 these drums lying around and no way to take care of  
16 it, and that becomes airborne or leaks out and we  
17 inhale it--one study I did showed that not uranium but  
18 polonium 210, only 9 micrograms is all that needs to  
19 kill ya, if you inhale it. Uranium is less than that.

20 I mean, you need a lot more than that, but  
21 still, it's dangerous.

22 So what I'd like to see is not a  
23 commitment--we don't know what to do with the highly-  
24 enriched uranium or the--I mean the depleted uranium.

25 But what we should have a commitment to do with AREVA

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1 is to convert it from uranium hexafluoride to some  
2 sort of uranium oxide, or some sort of stable, solid  
3 material, such that it can't go airborne.

4 Alpha particles won't hurt ya if it's  
5 solid state, a piece of paper will block 'em; but if  
6 it's airborne, then we can be in dangerous--so those  
7 are my recommendations. I am all for having it here.

8 I just want to make sure that we can be the best.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Josh.

11 And Larry. Larry Pettingill. Then we're  
12 going to go to Steve Herring and Robert Skinner.

13 MR. PETTINGILL: My name is Larry  
14 Pettingill. I have been a resident of Bonneville  
15 County for the last 39 years, and the rest of my life  
16 has been spent as an Idaho native.

17 I certainly support the AREVA Enrichment  
18 Services LLC license application to construct and  
19 operate the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. I believe  
20 that the need for a safe and controlled uranium  
21 enrichment facility in the United States is necessary  
22 for our country to--going to continue to generate 20  
23 percent or more of our electricity from carbon diox-  
24 free nuclear power.

25 Today, the United States imports nearly 90

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1 percent of the uranium enrichment services it needs.  
2 The Eagle Rock Enrichment facility will guarantee a  
3 secure system supply of enrichment services for our  
4 fleet of commercial nuclear reactors.

5 Our region offers a qualified workforce  
6 with a long history in nuclear energy as well as a  
7 strong community and political support.

8 I also realize that legitimate questions  
9 about potential environmental impacts must be  
10 addressed and I look forward to reviewing and  
11 commenting on the draft EIS.

12 That said, I feel AREVA has adequately  
13 addressed the safety and environmental issues in the  
14 environmental report submitted with the NRC  
15 application.

16 Issues I would like to have included in  
17 the EIS are potential impacts associated with  
18 transportation, water, public health, noise and waste  
19 management. AREVA has demonstrated a willingness to  
20 be a good corporate citizen by becoming active in our  
21 community and "going the extra mile" to communicate  
22 with community and state leaders as well as citizens  
23 in regard to this project.

24 In closing, I urge the NRC to speed up the  
25 process of AREVA's application for the Eagle Rock

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1 Enrichment Facility. Thank you for allowing me to  
2 comment on this important issue.

3 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Larry.

4 Steve Herring.

5 MR. HERRING: Good evening. My name's  
6 Steve Herring. I'm a nuclear engineer. I've been a  
7 resident of Idaho Falls for the last 30 years, and I'd  
8 like to speak in favor of approving the construction  
9 and operation of the AREVA enrichment plant near Idaho  
10 Falls.

11 The proposed plant would use gas  
12 centrifuge technology, reducing by a factor of at  
13 least twenty--and I've heard fifty here tonight--the  
14 amount of energy needed to produce reactor-grade  
15 uranium, when compared with the present gaseous  
16 diffusion process.

17 Centrifuge technology's been developed  
18 primarily in Europe and has been operated safely and  
19 economically for the last 30 years there. The chief  
20 example of the successful operation, as has been  
21 already mentioned, is in the George Besse II plant,  
22 which is a twin to the proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment  
23 Facility.

24 First a comment about uranium. Both U235  
25 and U238 have very long half-lives, greater than 700

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1 million and greater than 4.4 billion years,  
2 respectively. Thus the materials have very little  
3 radioactivity per unit mass.

4 The note that was earlier about polonium  
5 210, you should remember that that has a half-life of  
6 a few hundred days and is thus far more radioactive,  
7 by about eight orders of magnitude, than uranium is.

8 And also that radioactivity is primarily  
9 alpha particles with uranium.

10 It has been said here, a couple of times,  
11 that the uranium being processed will increase in  
12 radioactivity, over time. This is true but very  
13 misleading.

14 Actually, the uranium, both the enriched  
15 fuel and the tails, will simply slowly resume the  
16 levels of activity they had in the naturally-occurring  
17 ore bodies, due to the presence of the daughter  
18 products from uranium as it decays down to lead 206.

19 Secondly, the chemical form of uranium,  
20 uranium hexafluoride, is the same compound that has  
21 been used for 65 years in uranium enrichment.

22 It has to be carefully handled but its  
23 characteristics are well-known and the procedures for  
24 handling them have been well-tested. Finally, the  
25 waste in the process. The depleted tails will be

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1 returned to an oxide form through the deconversion  
2 plants that have been mentioned.

3 This oxide form closely parallels the  
4 chemical form of the original, naturally-occurring  
5 uranium ore body. These ore bodies have been, have  
6 existed for hundreds of millions, or perhaps billions  
7 of years, precisely because those oxide forms are very  
8 stable.

9 Therefore I urge the NRC to process and  
10 approve the application for the Eagle Rock Enrichment  
11 Facility as expeditiously as their thorough  
12 examination will permit. Thank you.

13 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

14 And as I mentioned, we're going to go to  
15 Robert Skinner. But then we're going to go to Linda  
16 Martin.

17 MR. SKINNER: Good evening. My name is  
18 Bob Skinner. I'm the current vice president of A  
19 Partnership for Science and Technology. Our  
20 organization is a nonprofit organization formed to  
21 advocate for energy and the environment technologies,  
22 and decisions that are in the public interest.

23 I am very familiar with the information  
24 surrounding the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility since I  
25 spent my entire working life in the nuclear business,

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1 first, in the nuclear Navy aboard submarines, and then  
2 operating a commercial nuclear power plant, where I  
3 first came in contact with the Nuclear Regulatory  
4 Commission, so I have a very high respect for what  
5 they do and how they do it.

6 And finally, at the Idaho National  
7 Laboratory. I've been involved with operations in  
8 waste management my entire career and have retired  
9 from both the U.S. Navy and the Idaho National  
10 Laboratory.

11 First, I would like to thank the NRC for  
12 conducting this meeting in Idaho Falls. It's nice to  
13 have you back in our community.

14 We do believe that the stakeholders that  
15 make up the community surrounding the proposed site  
16 should lead the discussion on the Eagle Rock  
17 Enrichment Facility.

18 Since 1948, Idaho has vigorously supported  
19 nuclear research at the Idaho National Laboratory. A  
20 recent study conducted by Boise State University  
21 reflected that 77 percent of citizens in the community  
22 surrounding the INEL support nuclear research at the  
23 lab.

24 We believe, without equivocation, that the  
25 proposed site in Eastern Idaho provides an excellent

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1 location for the home of the Eagle Rock Enrichment  
2 Facility.

3 Not only is our region well-known for  
4 being very supportive of nuclear energy research and  
5 projects. We also believe that we have the most  
6 highly-trained and experienced nuclear professionals  
7 in the nation.

8 Therefore, we would like to go on record  
9 as strongly supporting AREVA's license application for  
10 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

11 We understand and support the NRC's role  
12 to protect public health and safety. Please feel free  
13 to call on us to support you, in any way, for this  
14 very important mission.

15 As with any major project, there are  
16 potential environmental and safety impacts associated  
17 with the construction and operation that must be  
18 evaluated.

19 We believe the following potential impacts  
20 should be addressed in the draft EIS. Land use,  
21 transportation, geology and soils, water issues,  
22 ecological issues, air quality, historic and cultural  
23 issues, socioeconomic issues, public and occupational  
24 health issues, noise, and finally, waste management.

25 We believe any issues raised during the

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1 scoping period, that are not directly related to the  
2 assessment of potential impacts of the project, or the  
3 decision making process, should be dismissed from the  
4 draft EIS and discussed in other venues.

5 We've had the opportunity to study AREVA's  
6 environmental report that was submitted along with the  
7 application and we found the report to be extremely  
8 thorough.

9 We feel, after application of best  
10 management practice, and mitigation measures outlined  
11 in the report, the unavoidable environmental and  
12 safety impacts from the facility will be small and  
13 acceptable.

14 Therefore, we urge the NRC to  
15 expeditiously process and approve the application for  
16 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thanks, Bob.

18 Let's go to Steven Serr after Linda.  
19 Believe me, Linda, I'm not going to take your--this is  
20 Linda Martin.

21 MS. MARTIN: I'm Linda Martin. I'm the  
22 CEO of Grow Idaho Falls, and I'm here to present  
23 comments on behalf of Roger Plothow, our current  
24 president and myself.

25 We are the economic developing agency for

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1 Bonneville County, the City of Idaho Falls and the  
2 City of Ammon, Idaho.

3 We are a public/private nonprofit entity  
4 representing a cross-section of businesses engaged in  
5 promoting and enhancing new and existing businesses in  
6 our community, and we wish to comment as follows.

7 On the economic impacts. There are no  
8 Idaho taxes going to support this facility. I  
9 repeat. We were very involved, as a group, with the  
10 legislation for 561 and 562.

11 On the contrary, this project will  
12 generate millions of dollars annually into the Idaho  
13 tax base. The Regional Developing Alliance conducted  
14 an M Plan economic impact study regarding the Eagle  
15 Rock Enrichment Facility, and their decision to locate  
16 here, in Eastern Idaho.

17 I have a couple of drafts that are in the  
18 written document.

19 We believe that in the current and  
20 seemingly prolonged recession in the economy, that  
21 having new investment of this type and magnitude will  
22 positively help our community by keeping, retaining  
23 and creating new jobs.

24 These hearings are to discuss the  
25 appropriate scope and content of the economic,

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1 environmental and safety reviews.

2 Stakeholders that reside in the immediate  
3 vicinity of the facility are the appropriate people to  
4 comment on these reviews.

5 As an economic development agency, we are  
6 already receiving inquiries from companies interested  
7 in this project, seeking to open new offices and train  
8 and hire new employees.

9 This is a great thing for the economic  
10 health of our community.

11 On the technical impacts, the company's  
12 use of the centrifuge technology is a proven safe  
13 method of enriching uranium.

14 This technology is more efficient, more  
15 environmentally friendly and less expensive to operate  
16 than the other accepted uranium enrichment process  
17 called gaseous diffusion.

18 As such, AREVA as well as other companies  
19 have utilized this same technology in other countries  
20 and we believe this would be a safe facility in our  
21 community. We believe that AREVA has an excellent  
22 track record in this technology around the world. In  
23 its application, AREVA has proven itself to be  
24 technically capable of addressing and satisfying any  
25 NRC criteria or requirements, as well as addressing

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1 any waste issues per DOE and NRC guidelines.

2 And these would be necessary for the full  
3 and successful operation of this plant. Conceivably,  
4 there is a significant gap in the supply-demand  
5 equation for enriched uranium, to provide for our  
6 current and future green energy needs. The  
7 uncertainty of the future supply of energy could  
8 evolve into a national security issue.

9 The Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility would  
10 be a principal suppliers of this valuable and needed  
11 material. In addition, there is no evidence of any  
12 danger or threat of nuclear proliferation from the  
13 design, the construction, or the operation of the  
14 proposed facility.

15 Regarding water, our area is greatly  
16 impacted by the availability and the accessibility of  
17 water. In this case, the water right appropriation  
18 associated with this facility, property transferred  
19 defines the amount of water allowed for use, and most  
20 significantly, this amount is less than the current  
21 irrigation appropriation.

22 As a result, the impact of groundwater  
23 withdrawals during operation of the facility is  
24 expected to be less than the current impacts from  
25 irrigation practices.

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1           Therefore, we see the AREVA application as  
2 positively addressing this issue. We thank you for  
3 your time and expertise. We urge you to ignore  
4 unscientific or unfounded claims which would impede  
5 the quality of these reviews.

6           We hope that your studies and  
7 deliberations will result in a timely approval process  
8 as well as a positive outcome. Thank you.

9           MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Linda.

10           Our next three speakers are Steven Serr,  
11 Lane Allgood and Tim Solomon, and just for all of your  
12 information on where we are, we have a few more  
13 speakers after that, but we're closing in on the end  
14 of the commenters. So thank you for your patience.

15           Yes.

16           MR. SERR: My name's Steve Serr. I'm the  
17 Bonneville County Zoning Administrator. I also do the  
18 building code enforcement, fire code enforcement for  
19 the county, and I have another opportunity tonight to  
20 be the representative for the county commissioners in  
21 that they are committed to meetings in Northern Idaho.

22           They had prepared a statement that I have.  
23 They asked me to read.

24           The Bonneville County commissioners have  
25 reviewed the proposed plans for AREVA to locate their

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1 uranium enrichment facility within the county  
2 jurisdiction. That they're--anyway. Within the  
3 county jurisdiction.

4 We realize that this is a large and  
5 complex facility that is proposed, but we feel that  
6 the site is a very suitable location for this project.

7 After our evaluation of the AREVA Nuclear  
8 Regulatory Commission application that has been  
9 submitted, we feel that we can adequately meet the  
10 proposed needs for the project, the demand for  
11 services, and the staffing commitments to oversee the  
12 development of this project.

13 We have talked with many of the agencies  
14 and departments that would be involved in overseeing  
15 this project and have found no concerns that could not  
16 be properly addressed.

17 The community has a long track record of  
18 working with many facets of the nuclear industry. We  
19 have many businesses that regularly work with and  
20 support the nuclear industry. The public has a good  
21 knowledge of the industry and are supportive of this  
22 segment of the program.

23 It is our opinion that this development is  
24 a good fit into our community and it is one that we  
25 are in support of.

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1 My comments. I have dealt, been dealing  
2 with AREVA. They have been very open. We've  
3 discussed many issues as far as what would be needed  
4 to meet needs for development of this facility to  
5 minimize impacts on the community.

6 We've also had extensive discussion as far  
7 as plans for future use, for transportation programs,  
8 for management programs, waste management. One of the  
9 things I'm known for is being a bull dog in following  
10 details.

11 The intent of the county commissioners is  
12 to make sure that anything that they do on this site  
13 is compatible with the community and they've made the  
14 commitment that they will do whatever is necessary to  
15 make sure that the installation and development of  
16 this project would meet public health, safety, welfare  
17 needs, and long-range benefit of the community as it  
18 is developed.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: Okay, thanks, Steve, and  
21 thank you to the county commissioners also.

22 Lane Allgood. Then we're going to hear  
23 from Tim Solomon.

24 Mr. ALLGOOD: Good evening. My name is  
25 Lane Allgood. I've been a resident of Bonneville

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1 County my whole life. If you take a look at my hair  
2 color and physique, you'd know that's a long time.

3 I'm here tonight to state my support for  
4 the AREVA license application to construct and operate  
5 the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

6 I believe nuclear energy is an important  
7 piece of our national energy future as we strive to  
8 reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

9 Today, the United States imports 90  
10 percent of uranium enrichment services it needs, 50  
11 percent of that coming from Russia, and I personally  
12 have a bad feeling about that.

13 The Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility will  
14 help guarantee a secure supply of enrichment services  
15 for our nation's current and future fleet of  
16 commercial nuclear power plants.

17 AREVA is the only energy organization,  
18 worldwide, with the expertise in every phase of the  
19 nuclear energy fuel cycle, including uranium  
20 enrichment.

21 The Eagle Rock facility will use a  
22 centrifuge technology which has significant  
23 environmental and cost advantages over gaseous  
24 diffusion plants. Plus the centrifuge enrichment  
25 technology planned for this facility has been used

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1 successfully and safely in Europe for over 30 years.

2 I've had the opportunity to review AREVA's  
3 environmental report, and I feel the environmental  
4 issues addressed in this report should match the scope  
5 of a draft EIS.

6 The environmental issues I would like to  
7 see included in the scope of the EIS should include  
8 land use, transportation, geology and soils, water  
9 issues, air quality issues, historical and cultural  
10 issues, public and occupational health, noise and  
11 waste management.

12 I suspect you will hear from individuals  
13 and organizations outside of our community and state  
14 that will request you to assess issues that are out of  
15 the scope of the EIS. We've heard several of those  
16 this evening already.

17 I suggest these issues be discussed and  
18 debated in other venues. In closing, I thank the NRC  
19 for holding tonight's meeting to gather input from our  
20 community for the draft EIS. Thank you.

21 MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Lane. Is Tim  
22 Solomon--Tim? Thank you.

23 MR. SOLOMON: Good evening. I'm Tim  
24 Solomon. I'm executive director of the Regional  
25 Development Alliance located here, in Idaho Falls, and

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1 we've conducted an economic impact analysis on the  
2 AREVA plant.

3 We also were privileged to be a recipient  
4 under the DOE effort for GNEP. And I must say that we  
5 learned an awful lot about nuclear energy. And I must  
6 say that my appreciation for that process has  
7 increased through the experience we've had.

8 But I want to read a letter tonight on  
9 behalf of our corporation.

10 Dear NRC Staff: The Regional Development  
11 Alliance, a private corporation located in Bonneville  
12 County, Idaho, supports the AREVA Enrichment Services  
13 LLC license application to construct and operate the  
14 Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility.

15 Uranium enrichment in the U.S. is critical  
16 to the future of electricity power production. We  
17 believe that the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility,  
18 managed by AREVA, will help assure a safe and  
19 efficient supply of enrichment services for commercial  
20 reactors operating in this country.

21 The Southeast Idaho region is known for  
22 its lengthy history and expertise in nuclear energy.  
23 Widespread support has been expressed, time and time  
24 again, on all levels.

25 We are confident and expect that all

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1 questions regarding environmental impacts will be  
2 properly and efficiently addressed through the process  
3 typically employed by the NRC.

4 We urge the NRC to move quickly in  
5 processing the Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility  
6 application and look forward to reviewing and  
7 commenting on the draft EIS, and it's my signature,  
8 and we'll hand this in. Thank you very much.

9 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Tim.

10 How about Amy Lientz and Lorin Walker.  
11 Amy. Hi, Amy.

12 MS. LIENTZ: Can't read my handwriting,  
13 huh? Hi. It's Amy Lientz, not "Linty," but that's  
14 okay. I've got really bad handwriting. I'm currently  
15 the director of Governmental Affairs and  
16 Communications at Idaho National Laboratory, but I  
17 come here as a private citizen and a benefitting  
18 taxpayer in Idaho, tonight, to comment.

19 I'm glad there was clarification on the  
20 tax incentive issue versus tax supplement issue, and  
21 please look at those facts very carefully in your  
22 analysis. You'll find truth in what Linda Martin  
23 presented to you.

24 I also wanted to mention, in a recent  
25 position, I had the privilege to partner with AREVA on

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1 a project in Richland, Washington, and they were a  
2 very solid, trusted, viable company, that wouldn't  
3 even consider doing projects if they didn't feel it  
4 was safe, that they didn't have the right people for  
5 the job, and that they were causing harm to the  
6 environment.

7 So I very much respected their involvement  
8 with us on multiple projects, not just that one.

9 There's been a lot of falsehood in the  
10 information posted on Web sites and in fliers. So I  
11 encourage you very much to look very hard into what is  
12 fact and what is fiction. There is an amazing amount  
13 of resources available, for over 60 years, right here,  
14 associated with Idaho National Laboratory, that will  
15 cover every entity of an EIS.

16 So please don't necessarily repeat the  
17 process but just know there is a lot of great solid  
18 information based on science and engineering.

19 And I also wanted to mention to you, as I  
20 understand the scoping process, you define the purpose  
21 and need. There is justification to really analyzing  
22 the demand for enriched uranium to support the growth  
23 of nuclear energy. So that is an appropriate inquiry.

24 Also just know as far as the demand is  
25 concerned, there is a growing queue of potential

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1 applications for combined licensing agreements out  
2 there in this country and a seemingly endless  
3 expansion of nuclear generation around the world.  
4 That would seem to answer, very clearly, the question  
5 of demand and growth.

6 So with that, I appreciate having the  
7 opportunity tonight to comment. I also will make a  
8 statement that Dave Hill, who is the associate lab  
9 director for the Idaho National Laboratory, had to  
10 leave tonight, but he will also be commenting, in  
11 writing, as a private citizen as well. Thank you.

12 MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thanks, Amy.

13 Thank you very much.

14 Is Lorin Walker here?

15 [No response]

16 MR. CAMERON: How about Akira Tokuhiro?

17 [No response]

18 MR. CAMERON: Or Dr. Chester "Matoch"?  
19 I'm sure I got that one wrong. "Matloch." All right.

20 DR. MATLOCH: Hello. I'm Chet Matloch. A  
21 little background. I have a BS in physics from UCLA,  
22 a master's in physics from Oakland University, a PhD  
23 in engineering and applied science from Idaho State  
24 University. I have 15 years of nuclear system safety  
25 analysis management experience, five years of nuclear

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1 fuel safety supervision experience.

2 I've been a resident of Idaho Falls for 32  
3 years. I'm also a co-resident of Blaine County for 12  
4 years, which includes Sun Valley, Ketchum, Bellevue,  
5 Hailey and Carey.

6 And I mention all of these things because  
7 some of these areas, the vocal minorities dominate the  
8 discussions.

9 I'd like to talk about impacts. Many  
10 people use the word impact to imply negative effects.

11 Actually, impacts could be positive or negative.

12 So I'd like to talk about the positive  
13 impacts associated with nuclear energy and, hence,  
14 AREVA's facility.

15 Number one. It will reduce carbon  
16 emissions. Number two. This could lead to a  
17 reduction in global warming. Number three. This will  
18 lead to a reduction in the import of fossil fuels.  
19 Number four. This will lead to an improved balance of  
20 trade. Number five. This will reduce the number of  
21 oil-motivated wars that we participate in. Number  
22 six. Fewer American soldiers will die.

23 Number seven. This will lead to energy  
24 independence. And number eight. All of this supports  
25 enhanced national security.

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1 I strongly urge the NRC evaluate all of  
2 these positive impacts, qualify them and quantify  
3 them, and include them in the Environmental Impact  
4 Statement.

5 I fully support and advocate the safe and  
6 judicious use of nuclear energy and AREVA's uranium  
7 enrichment facility.

8 Nuclear waste is a political issue, not a  
9 technical issue. That is, this political issue is  
10 entirely created by the anti-nuclear zealots. We all  
11 know that and we need to recognize that when the  
12 Environmental Impact Statements are written.

13 Lastly, America can no longer afford to  
14 let the vocal minority nuclear obstructionists, such  
15 as the Snake River Alliance, bully their way into  
16 forcing their negative agenda on our national energy  
17 policy, and hence, jeopardizing our future security  
18 and those of our children.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CAMERON: All right. How about Ryan--  
21 Ryan Fruth. Is it Fruth? "Frooth." Sorry. And then  
22 Jeff Smith.

23 MR. FRUTH: Hi. My name's Ryan Fruth and  
24 I was nine years nuclear Navy, fully qualified on all  
25 the current General Electric designs in the 1990's. I

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1 have two technical degrees, one arts degree, and I've  
2 been licensed by the NRC two times to operate the four  
3 loop Westinghouse and the combustion engineering  
4 pressurized water reactors, commercially, as an SRO in  
5 the control room.

6 I say that just to let everyone know that  
7 I think the biggest problem is a lack of education in  
8 this country. We've let Hollywood and the media  
9 educate us about nuclear power more than hard data and  
10 facts or truth.

11 I think we need to start with our  
12 children, educate them. I have five myself, that  
13 aren't grown yet, and I'm really concerned about their  
14 future, and I'm up here as a private citizen, although  
15 I do currently teach at the advanced test reactor out  
16 at the INL.

17 But I'm not speaking on their behalf,  
18 rather, just my family. And I hope that we do keep  
19 nuclear on the table because it's really our only  
20 option for national security, energy security, and I  
21 think that the people opposed to this project here  
22 tonight, I'm going to give them the benefit of the  
23 doubt, that they're not out for political reasons, and  
24 that they don't want the lights to go off in this  
25 country and have us powerless, for someone to just

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1 take us over and change our way of life.

2 But rather, that they truly believe that  
3 they care about the environment and that's their main  
4 drive.

5 If that's such--if that is the case, then  
6 we need to really get our grid powered by nuclear  
7 power and get off the fossil fuels, which are really  
8 destroying the environment. They give off so many  
9 toxins and poisons, which nuclear power gives off none  
10 of.

11 So I just hope you'll take the time to do  
12 the research and really listen to the, as I already  
13 said, the hard data, facts and truth. Thanks.

14 MR. CAMERON: Okay, Ryan.

15 And this is Jeff. And then John Tanner.  
16 Jeff Smith.

17 MR. SMITH: Thank you. Yes, I am Jeff  
18 Smith. I'm with the Local 449, the International  
19 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I represent some  
20 600 licensed electricians and their families, and  
21 probably more than 20 electrical contracting firms and  
22 their families. We, too, are small business and  
23 family-oriented. We feel this project is not only  
24 good for Eastern Idaho but our nation.

25 We have some 117 years of experience and

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1 skill. We have led the way in construction safety in  
2 the industry and we are looking forward to working  
3 hand in hand with AREVA on this project. Thank you.

4 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

5 John Tanner.

6 MR. TANNER: I'm John Tanner. I'm  
7 president of Coalition 21, a local volunteer  
8 organization of mostly retirees from the INL, but also  
9 some who are still working there, and a few  
10 townspeople not employed there. We think this is a  
11 very good project. As far as safety and being a good  
12 neighbor, we point out that the Enrichment Facility  
13 AREVA is building in France is right adjacent to a  
14 French town.

15 We don't expect the people there to be  
16 dying off from problems.

17 As far--we don't see this project as a  
18 proliferation risk. We're not developing any new  
19 technology. In fact, we are trying to catch up with  
20 the rest of the world. The NRC can point out that  
21 water use will be only a small fraction of the water  
22 use, of using the same land for growing potatoes,  
23 let's say, and we hope that the NRC will carefully  
24 explain to those who are concerned, what the waste  
25 will be and what will be done with it.

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1           And mainly point out that the major  
2 byproduct, depleted uranium hexafluoride, is already  
3 stored in large quantities in Ohio and I think  
4 Kentucky, and that it's been stored safely there for  
5 many years.

6           And actually there are plants now under  
7 construction, they're converted to a less chemically-  
8 reactive form. Thank you.

9           MR. CAMERON: Thank you, John.

10           Is there anybody else? Did I miss anybody  
11 who wanted to make a comment tonight? Yes, sir.

12           MR. YURMAN: My name is Dan Yurman. I  
13 live in Idaho Falls. I'm going to speak very freely.  
14 I'm a nuclear energy blogger. I have a blog called  
15 Idaho Samizdat. It's been operational for three  
16 years. I have readers in 70 countries. Some of my  
17 readers include the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
18 The IP address for the NRC starts with 148. So ask  
19 your IT people about that.

20           I want to talk about two things that come  
21 up. First is demand. Current demand in the U.S. is  
22 about 12 million SWU. If you take the three plants  
23 that have been planned, they'll come to around nine or  
24 ten, without doubling the capacity of LES, and AREVA--  
25 the Russians will come in for the last two or three.

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1 They're operating under megatons to megawatts right  
2 now.

3 Of course recent agreements have changed  
4 that. But they're limited in terms of total kilograms  
5 that they can sell. So I think about 80 percent of  
6 the demand for SWU will be met, just barely, by the  
7 three plants. So I think there's plenty of demand and  
8 I think there's plenty of need.

9 The other thing that I'd like to emphasize  
10 is that uranium deconversion technology is being  
11 developed here in Idaho Falls by International  
12 Isotopes. The fluorine actually is very valuable and  
13 I think you're going to see increase in demand for  
14 recovery of the fluorine from the depleted uranium,  
15 which I think will address the waste issue, and that's  
16 all I have. Thank you.

17 MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

18 I'm going to ask Patty Bubar, our senior  
19 NRC official, to close the meeting out for us tonight.  
20 Patty.

21 MS. BUBAR: Thank you. Well, thank you to  
22 everyone for your very thoughtful comments and thank  
23 you for your patience, for everyone listening to  
24 everyone else.

25 We really value all of the input that we

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1 received and we will seriously evaluate everyone's  
2 comments.

3 I think we talked about this earlier but  
4 the next step is, well, we're going to continue with  
5 our evaluation in preparation of the Environmental  
6 Impact Statement.

7 We will produce a report from this  
8 evening's meeting. We will produce a scoping report  
9 which will summarize all of the comments that we have  
10 heard.

11 We encourage you to submit any more  
12 comments. The period is still open for the 19th.

13 If there's someone here, or someone that  
14 you know of, that was not able to come this evening,  
15 please ensure that they understand the process and  
16 understand that there still is time to comment. So we  
17 encourage people to continue to do that.

18 We will put the scoping report out on our  
19 Web site. So you will be able to see how we captured  
20 what came out of this evening, and that's very  
21 important to us, to do that, because we want to be  
22 accountable for making sure that we have listened to  
23 and are taking all of your comments into consideration  
24 as we do our evaluation.

25 We will be back out into this area after

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1 we publish the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

2 If you want to be on our mailing list,  
3 fill out one of the blue cards, so that you will get a  
4 notice about the EIS being available, and any meetings  
5 associated with that. Or check our Web site on a  
6 regular basis.

7 So hopefully this evening provided you an  
8 opportunity to understand a little bit more the  
9 process that we go through.

10 It certainly was valuable to us to hear  
11 your comments, and with that we will formally close  
12 the meeting. As Chip had said earlier, the NRC staff  
13 will stick around here, so if there's any particular  
14 questions that you didn't get answered or you didn't  
15 want to bring up in the public forum, we will still be  
16 here to be able to answer those questions.

17 Thank you, and have a good evening, what's  
18 left of it.

19 [Whereupon, at 9:40 p.m., the proceedings  
20 in the foregoing matter were adjourned.]  
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22  
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