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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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International Isotopes Fluorine Products,
Incorporated - Public Scoping Meeting

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 OFFICE OF FEDERAL AND STATE MATERIALS AND

5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (FSME)

6 + + + + +

7 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING ON

8 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE PROPOSED

9 INTERNATIONAL

10 ISOTOPES FLUORINE PRODUCTS, INC. FLUORINE EXTRACTION

11 PROCESS AND DEPLETED URANIUM DE-CONVERSION PLANT IN

12 HOBBS, NEW MEXICO

13 + + + + +

14 THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2010

15 + + + + +

16 The Public Scoping Meeting convened at

17 the Lea County Event Center, 5101 Lovington Highway,

18 Hobbs, New Mexico 88240, at 5:30 p.m.

19 NRC STAFF PRESENT:

20 BILL MAIER, Regional State Liaison Office,

21 NRC Region IV

22 DAVID L. SKEEN, Deputy Director,

23 Division of Waste Management and Environmental

24 Protection

25

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MATTHEW BARTLETT, Project Manager,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and
Safeguards
DR. ASIMIOS MALLIAKOS, Project Manager,
Division of Waste Management and Environmental
Protection

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

[5:32 p.m.]

MR. MAIER: Good evening everyone, and welcome to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or, as we like to call ourselves, the NRC, Public Scoping Meeting on the Environmental Review for the Proposed International Isotopes Fluorine Products, Incorporated, Fluorine Extraction Process, And Depleted Uranium De-Conversion Plant.

My name is Bill Maier and I'm an employee at the NRC's Regional Office in Arlington, Texas, and it's my pleasure to be the facilitator for tonight's meeting, that's scheduled to go for three hours and end at 8:30 p.m., but we think it might end up a little bit before that time.

The purpose of this meeting is twofold.

It's being held to provide information to you about the NRC and its processes for licensing facilities such as the one being proposed, especially the environmental review process, but it is also being held to provide you the opportunity to speak up and let the NRC know about the environmental issues, factors, potential impacts and concerns that you believe should be considered in the environmental review of the facility's application.

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1 The meeting will be divided into three
2 parts, with, unfortunately, no breaks in between,
3 but you're certainly welcome to take a break if you
4 feel you need to.

5 For roughly the first hour, several NRC
6 officials will give presentations about the Agency,
7 its functions and responsibilities, and how it
8 intends to conduct its review of the license
9 application that was submitted last December by
10 International Isotopes Fluorine Products,
11 Incorporated.

12 The second part of the meeting will give
13 you, the audience, an opportunity to ask questions
14 of these officials about the items that they
15 covered, in the event any clarification is needed.

16 We have only budgeted about 15 minutes
17 for the question-and-answer period, but it's my
18 wish, and I'm sure it's the wish of the presenters
19 as well, that no question should go unresolved or
20 left lingering, if possible.

21 Nevertheless, we'll try to get through
22 the first parts of the meeting quickly, in order to
23 maximize the time spent on the third and most
24 important part. That's the part where registered
25 speakers will be given an opportunity to tell the

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1 NRC about what items, alternatives and impacts they
2 feel should be included in the environment review
3 for this proposed facility.

4 First, a discussion of some health and
5 safety items. All of you here are probably more
6 familiar with this building that we're in tonight
7 than I am, but I have a duty to inform about safety
8 procedures and to point out necessary features.

9 You probably saw on the way in that
10 there are rest rooms located in the rear of our room
11 here, just outside the door, but there are
12 additional rest rooms in this corridor that runs
13 this way, to your left, my right, and just going out
14 the back and to the right would get you to
15 additional rest room facilities.

16 Drinking water can be found in that same
17 corridor, going to the right outside the back door.

18 For anyone who missed them on the way
19 into this room, handouts of the presentations that
20 the speakers will be speaking from can be found on
21 the table outside the door, as well as an item that
22 we call the NRC Public Meeting Feedback Form.

23 We strongly urge, we strongly beg you to
24 take a few minutes, at the end of the meeting, to
25 fill out the feedback form, and tell us what went

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1 well about the meeting, and what your suggestions
2 are for how to improve it in the future. Pens are
3 also available for filling out the forms.

4 You can hand your forms in at the end of
5 the meeting to any of the NRC participants before
6 you leave, or drop them off at the table where you
7 picked them up.

8 You can also mail them to the NRC later,
9 if you want to take some time to go home and think
10 about what you want to say. You can fold the card
11 in thirds and tape it together, and it has prepaid
12 postage for begging it back to the NRC.

13 In the event we have to evacuate the
14 building during the evening, it is a simple matter,
15 just go out the back doors and out the doors that
16 most folks came in, to exist the building.

17 We have some deputies from the Lea
18 County Sheriff's Office as well as members of the
19 New Mexico Mounted Patrol. They're here as a
20 precaution only. We don't expect to need security
21 for this, but it's a standard NRC process to include
22 security for public meetings, in the event that it's
23 needed, and we don't expect any need for security
24 for tonight.

25 Let me also go over a few ground rules

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1 for conduct during the meeting.

2 The third part of the meeting, as I
3 said, is the most important part of the meeting.
4 That's when the registered speakers will be given an
5 opportunity to provide information to the NRC. You
6 probably saw two colors of cards on your way in,
7 yellow cards and blue cards. The yellow cards are
8 for people who wish to register to speak on the
9 record, for information they think they NRC should
10 include in the environmental review.

11 If you wish to speak during the meeting
12 and have not already filled out a yellow card,
13 please arise your hand, and Ms. Tarsha Moon, who's
14 in the back of the room, she'll get a card to you,
15 get you to fill it out and collect it. We need to
16 have those cards collected before the beginning of
17 the speakers portion, so we know how much time each
18 speaker will be allowed to take. Currently, we only
19 have about six cards, I think, already in hand, for
20 speakers that want to make comments.

21 The blue cards are for providing your
22 contact information, if you wish to be kept on an e-
23 mail list and receive important NRC information
24 about this license application. Also, if you ask a
25 question that the NRC staff cannot answer here

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1 tonight, put your contact information on a blue
2 card, with your question that still needs an answer,
3 and the staff will get an answer back to you. Put
4 your e-mail address on it. If you don't have an e-
5 mail address, a telephone number will work just as
6 well.

7 Now for some general etiquette rules.
8 This meeting is being recorded by Ms. Pam Hollinger
9 over here, for transcription purposes to put into
10 the official record.

11 For that reason, it's vitally important
12 that the comments being made on the record are
13 clearly heard with no confusing background noise.
14 And although I didn't put it in my notes, somebody
15 reminded me, very nicely, that all cell phones
16 should be placed on mute or silenced.

17 It is important that only one person be
18 speaking at any given instant while comments are
19 being transcribed. So please refrain from any
20 commentary or shout-outs while a person is speaking
21 on the record. It's just good policy to avoid
22 speaking, unless you're being recognized.

23 I will call up speakers three at a time,
24 and ask them to take the first three chairs here
25 that I've got the reserved sheets sitting on, so

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1 that we can minimize the time it takes or someone to
2 get up and back to the table. It looks like we'll
3 have to have two shifts of speakers, which won't be
4 too much of a burden.

5 Speakers will speak from the lectern
6 here, so we ask that you speak clearly into the
7 microphone, and Ms. Pam Hollinger will give
8 appropriate feedback if she's not getting the proper
9 amount of volume that she needs in order to keep a
10 good transcript.

11 For the question-and-answer period,
12 please try to keep your questions focused and
13 direct, and avoid any long introduction to the
14 question, if at all possible.

15 As I mentioned, we budgeted only 15
16 minutes for questions and answers, so it's important
17 to try to get as many questions asked and answered,
18 in the 15 minutes, as we can, in order to maximize
19 the time for the speakers. And what's good for the
20 goose is good for the gander too. I expect the NRC
21 staff to appropriately provide focused answers to
22 the questions and answer the questions as directly
23 as possible.

24 People speaking on the record will be
25 able to use the lectern but questions will be asked

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1 from the floor, and what I will do during the
2 question-and-answer period is walk around with the
3 hand mike. As you have a question, raise your hand,
4 I'll try to keep a tab of who had their hands up, in
5 what order, and get the microphone out to you.

6 Please stand up when asking a question,
7 and give your name, if you wish, and please don't be
8 offended if I don't surrender the microphone to you.

9 That is what they taught me in facilitator training
10 as the cardinal rule of facilitation--never give up
11 the microphone.

12 And I don't want to embarrass both of us
13 by engaging in a wrestling match for possession of
14 the microphone.

15 For translation purposes, everything
16 here tonight will be in English.

17 Hay alguien aqui, que no comprende
18 Ingles?

19 Not seeing any hands, I'm very relieved.

20 But we had a contingency plan to deal with that as
21 well.

22 Any questions on anything I've gone over
23 so far?

24 [No response]

25 If not, we'll start into the

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1 presentations, and I will introduce the first
2 speaker. His name is David Skeen. Dave is the
3 Deputy Division Director in the Division of Waste
4 Management and Environmental Protection in the NRC's
5 Office of Federal and State Materials and
6 Environmental Program Management.

7 Dave.

8 MR. SKEEN: Thanks, Bill. I appreciate
9 that. Let me see if this device is going to work
10 here for us tonight. Hey, it works.

11 The first thing I wanted to say was I
12 sure appreciate that the NRC got on the front page
13 of the local paper. We--usually we get relegated to
14 the back page, below the fold, and no one knows when
15 we're in town. But certainly, I see that we're on
16 top of the front page in the community news, so--and
17 it looks like we've got a pretty good turnout for
18 the meeting tonight. So again, we appreciate that.

19 Also, I want to thank the people of Lea
20 County and Hobbs. You've treated our staff very
21 well this week. We've had meetings with several of
22 the public officials and community leaders, some of
23 the first responders, and we've gotten some very
24 good input from those folks.

25 So again, we appreciate your time for

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1 giving us input. We think that's very important.

2 So the first thing I want to talk about
3 is who are we. Who's the NRC? First of all, I
4 would say we looked at our slogan. It says we
5 protect people and the environment. At one time we
6 thought about "We're the NRC--no, we're not related
7 to DOE." Because a lot of people think we're a
8 subset of the Department of Energy.

9 But basically, back in 1974, with the
10 energy Reorganization Act, the Federal Government
11 and Congress split the Atomic Energy Commission into
12 two pieces. One was the Department of Energy, which
13 was responsible for the military uses of nuclear
14 materials, as well as promoting nuclear energy as a
15 energy source.

16 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was
17 born to oversee or regulate that industry, and the
18 fear was, from Congress, that there was some
19 conflict of interest if the same agency was both
20 promoting nuclear energy as well as overseeing and
21 regulating nuclear materials. So that's how we were
22 born.

23 We are an independent federal agency.
24 We get--94 percent of our budget is paid for by our
25 licensees. Only 10 percent comes out of the General

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1 Fund from Congress, from the taxpayers. So we
2 depend a lot on getting fees for the services that
3 we provide in overseeing nuclear materials.

4 We are headed by a five member
5 Commission. Each commissioner is appointed for a
6 five year term. It's a rolling five year term. One
7 commissioner is appointed every year to fill a five
8 year term. They are appointed by the President of
9 the United States, and then they are confirmed the
10 Senate. The U.S. Senate has to confirm all of our
11 commissioners.

12 In general, it runs as the party that is
13 in the White House, it has the majority control of
14 the Commission, so, in general, if there's a
15 Republican in the White House there are three
16 Republican commissioners and two Democratic
17 commissioners. Right now, there's a Democrat in
18 the White House, so we have three Democratic
19 commissioners and two Republican commissioners that
20 oversee the Commission.

21 We have the regulatory responsibility
22 for the use of, all commercial use of nuclear
23 materials in the United States. And that's why
24 we're here. This facility that they're proposing
25 for the International Isotopes Fluorine Products

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1 comes under our jurisdiction.

2 So what is our mission? We regulate the
3 civilian use of byproduct, source, and special
4 nuclear materials, and we want to ensure that the
5 product is adequately protected from the use of
6 those materials, as well as promoting the common
7 defense and security of the United States and
8 protecting the environment.

9 A lot of times we say these words, and
10 folks don't really know what we mean by product
11 material, or source material, or special nuclear
12 materials. Basically, what byproduct material is is
13 materials used maybe in the nuclear industry or for
14 industrial purposes, like a density gauge when
15 you're building roads, or radiographers that do
16 radiographs on welds or other kind of things like
17 that.

18 Source material. Basically, source
19 material means thorium or uranium, and it's uranium
20 as long as the uranium hasn't been enriched in the
21 isotope with Uranium-235. Then we move into special
22 nuclear materials. Special nuclear materials is
23 basically plutonium or uranium-233, or uranium
24 that's been enriched in the isotopes of uranium-233
25 or uranium-235. So that's kind of the different

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1 things, and I know it's a lot of chemistry and
2 letters to think about, but that's basically the
3 materials that we're talking about.

4 So how is the NRC organized here? Well,
5 basically we have four regions throughout the
6 country as well as the headquarters in Washington,
7 D.C., actually, just outside of Washington in
8 Rockville, Maryland.

9 But the, I guess the first step here,
10 this is Region I and the base of that is King of
11 Prussia, Pennsylvania, which is just outside of
12 Philadelphia. Our Region II office is down in
13 Atlanta, Georgia. Our Region III office is in
14 Lisle, Illinois, which is just outside of Chicago,
15 and then our Region IV office is Arlington, right
16 there, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

17 So you may be asking, what are these two
18 cross-hatched states, Missouri and Mississippi.

19 That doesn't mean we don't regulate in those states.

20 It's just--it's--what we're trying to do is explain
21 to folks that if you see the green cross-hatching
22 for Missouri and Mississippi, that means that we
23 regulate the reactors in those states out of our
24 Region IV office in Arlington, Texas. Otherwise,
25 for all the other materials licenses that come

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1 about, Mississippi is regulated for materials from
2 our Atlanta office, and Missouri is regulated by our
3 Lisle office in Illinois.

4 So what do we regulate? We regulate
5 different kinds of facilities. Certainly nuclear
6 reactors. Any of the commercial reactors. We have
7 104 commercial reactors operating in this country
8 today, as well as 35 test and research reactors that
9 we oversee, and then we're looking at new designs,
10 that we're looking for new licenses now to
11 potentially build some new plants as well, power
12 plants.

13 In the nuclear materials world, all the
14 reactor fuel and radioactive materials for medical,
15 industrial and academic uses in the world of nuclear
16 waste. We also regulate the transportation, storage
17 and disposal of commercial waste, things that we not
18 military waste, we have jurisdiction over, as well
19 as de-commissioning of facilities that we do
20 regulate.

21 And then in nuclear security, we have
22 the responsibility for the physical security of the
23 commercial nuclear materials and to protect that
24 material from sabotage or attacks.

25 Someone didn't turn their cell phone

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1 off.

2 So our primary functions. How is it
3 that we regulate? The NRC regulates by establishing
4 rules and regulations, issuing rules, or revising
5 those rules when we need to for the commercial use
6 of nuclear materials.

7 We issue licenses to allow the use of
8 these materials to certain entities, and of course
9 we get licensing fees for doing that. When we issue
10 a license, the licensee pays us to give them a
11 license.

12 We also provide our oversight through
13 inspection. In our 104 reactors around the country
14 we have resident inspectors that are there all the
15 time.

16 Now for different facilities, we may not
17 have resident inspectors. Sometimes we just have
18 regional inspectors that come and inspect on some
19 period of time. But we don't always have resident
20 inspectors at all fuel facilities.

21 We also conduct research to provide
22 support for our regulatory decisions. We have an
23 Office of Research in headquarters that helps us
24 look kind of out into the future, or if we have
25 regulatory actions that we're considering, and we

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1 need extra technical expertise, they will go off and
2 do some studies for us, to help make sure that we're
3 looking at all of the potential issues that we need
4 to in making a regulatory decision.

5 And finally, we respond to emergencies.

6 We practice, all the time, with drills for--in case
7 there is an event that would involve nuclear
8 materials, but--so we just want to be prepared in
9 case that happens.

10 So I told you what we did. Here's what
11 we don't do. The NRC doesn't build any plants. We
12 don't promote nuclear facilities. We're the
13 referees or the umpires. We're the ones that look
14 at all the information we gather, to decide, is this
15 facility going to be safe? Will it be constructed,
16 operated safely, and then when it's decommissioned,
17 will the public be safe from all those different
18 actions that take place? So that's our main
19 function.

20 We don't own or operate any nuclear
21 plants. Even though we may have resident
22 inspectors on sites, or we bring inspectors in, we
23 have nothing to do with the operation of the
24 facility itself, only if it's being operated in a
25 safe manner.

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1 We don't regulate the nuclear weapons.
2 That's why I explained that the Department of Energy
3 took responsibility for all military uses of nuclear
4 materials, so the NRC really doesn't have any
5 jurisdiction or authority over those.

6 We don't regulate naturally-occurring
7 radioactive material. It's all around us. There's
8 naturally-occurring radioactive materials
9 everywhere. But again, the NRC does not regulate
10 that.

11 So what we try to do, we try to do our
12 business in an open way. We basically try to bend
13 over backwards to be open and transparent in the way
14 that we do our business.

15 Our goals are to make sure that we
16 achieve nuclear safety, nuclear security, openness
17 in the way we do business, hopefully effectiveness
18 as a regulator, and operational excellence in our
19 goals of being, managing the regulation of these
20 nuclear materials.

21 We place a very high priority on keeping
22 the public and stakeholders informed in what we do.

23 We feel it just allows them to participate in our
24 regulatory processes, and actually gives us a better
25 answer, in the end, when we get--when we hear from

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1 everyone, we feel like we make a better decision.

2 So because of that, we encourage
3 stakeholder participation in our regulatory process,
4 as much as possible. Every step of the way, we try
5 to make sure that the public's involved. We listen
6 to their comments. We may not always agree with the
7 comments we get, but we will give due consideration
8 to any comment we get from members of the public,
9 and all of our stakeholders.

10 And then finally, you can go to our Web
11 site, our public Web site is www.nrc.gov, and
12 there's lots of information on there for you, and if
13 you have any questions, I'm sure we'd be glad to
14 talk to you about anything you find on our Web site.

15 So for us, communications is a key way
16 of doing our business. We want to participate in
17 active dialogue with all of our stakeholders, and
18 basically, we want to start with you, and you means
19 the members of the public.

20 We've heard a lot from the business
21 leaders and the elected officials in this area, but
22 we also want to hear from just the average public
23 person that may have some concern, or some interest,
24 in this facility that's going to be built here. So
25 what we hope to hear from you tonight is some

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1 issues, if you have any issues or concerns about any
2 of the potential environmental impacts that building
3 this facility may have on your area.

4 We also deal with public interest
5 groups. If there are public interest groups that
6 are interested in talking to us, we always want to
7 hear from them as well.

8 Also the Indian tribes. State and local
9 officials, as I said, we've been talking with them
10 along the way. Other state agencies, other federal
11 agencies. We're part of the federal family, and we
12 certainly want to work closely with our federal
13 counterparts, EPA, DOE, in certain cases, and other
14 agencies as well.

15 And also the Congress. The Congress has
16 a large interest in NRC activities, and we regularly
17 interface with them. Our commissioners are down on
18 the Hill talking to different congressional
19 delegations all the time. Sometimes we get invited
20 to hearings, to speak about what might be going on
21 as far as nuclear materials go.

22 And then there's the nuclear industry
23 groups. The Nuclear Energy Institute, or the
24 Institute for Nuclear Power Operations. We
25 interface with those folks as well, to make sure we

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1 hear their concerns about how the industry's being
2 regulated.

3 And then finally, international
4 organizations. The U.S. is a large player in what
5 goes on, internationally, through the International
6 Atomic Energy Agency. We support that group. We
7 have several of our staff consult with many of the
8 international regulators and folks at the IAEA, and,
9 you know, we feel that it's important that we share
10 our knowledge, and get knowledge from other folks
11 from around the world, to make sure we're making the
12 industry as safe as we can.

13 So finally, why are we here in Hobbs?
14 Well, as part of our licensing process, we come out
15 and do a public scoping meeting, to try to
16 understand from everybody, if there's any issues
17 they may have about any licensing decision we may
18 have in front of us. In this case, it's building
19 the International Isotopes facility here near Hobbs.

20 So we certainly want to hear from
21 anyone. If you have any concerns, or any issues you
22 want to raise to us, that helps us in our
23 assessment, to determine whether we should actually
24 issue a license for this facility to be constructed
25 and operated. So your input is vital to us, to

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1 understand any issues you may have. You folks live
2 here, and you know this area better than we ever
3 will. So it's very important that you let us know
4 if there's any concerns that you may have.

5 Again, we're only at the very beginning
6 of the process. Our folks are going to come up here
7 and talk to you a little bit on our process of the
8 licensing reviews, and then the environmental
9 reviews we do. So it's important that we get your
10 input, early on, to help us know what areas we want
11 to look into further, or areas we may not need to
12 look into as closely.

13 And I would say that no decisions have
14 been made yet. Right now, we will make our
15 licensing decision somewhere after--it may be
16 January of 2012, before the final decision is made
17 whether to issue a license for this facility or not.

18 So with that being said, now you're
19 going to hear an overview in both the licensing and
20 environmental review process from some of our staff,
21 and after that, we look forward to hearing from you
22 during the question-and-answer period as well as the
23 comment period that we'll have afterward.

24 So with that, I'd like to invite Matt
25 Bartlett up to talk a little bit about the safety

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1 review process. Thanks.

2 MR. BARTLETT: Good evening, and thanks
3 for coming out to our meeting. As Dave said, my
4 name is Matt Bartlett and I'm the project manager
5 for the licensing safety review. I basically just
6 have two objectives for my portion of the talk. The
7 first is to just give you kind of an overview of the
8 International Isotopes proposed facility, and then
9 secondly, to give you an overview of where we are in
10 the licensing process.

11 As I'm sure you're all aware, the
12 facility is proposed to be built in about the middle
13 of Lea County. It's about 14 miles west of Hobbs.
14 The facility basically is going to take, receive
15 depleted uranium hexafluoride, otherwise known as
16 DUF-6, receive this material from the enrichment
17 facilities, similar to the LES facility down near
18 Eunice.

19 These enrichment facilities, as they
20 create fuel for the nuclear reactors, end up
21 producing as waste, or tails, a lot of this depleted
22 uranium hexafluoride.

23 The thing to keep in mind with this
24 facility, even though it's regulated by the NRC, the
25 de-conversion process is primarily a chemical

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1 process, and the reason that it's regulated by the
2 NRC is because of the uranium, right? which is a
3 radioactive compound. Since it's depleted uranium
4 we're dealing with, it's relatively of low, low
5 radioactivity.

6 The process basically involves receiving
7 the DUF-6 in 14-ton cylinders, similar to this one.

8 The material will go into the facility and then
9 they'll also have silicon dioxide and boron
10 trioxide, and it'll go into the facility where it'll
11 be reacted.

12 And then the goal is to provide both
13 depleted uranium dioxide and then high purity
14 fluoride compounds.

15 The depleted uranium dioxide is much
16 more stable than the DUF-6, and it actually can be
17 disposed of at a licensed disposal facility such as
18 the facility in Clive, Utah.

19 The high-purity fluoride compounds can
20 be sold commercially, and they include silicon
21 tetrafluoride, boron trifluoride, and anhydrous
22 hydrogen fluoride.

23 Okay. Now more information on the
24 review process. We received the application that
25 was mentioned earlier, in the December 2009

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1 timeframe. We initiated what's called an acceptance
2 review, and that's basically a 45-day review to
3 determine if there's sufficient information in the
4 application to do an in-depth review, and February
5 24th, 2010, we accepted the application for a formal
6 review, and that basically--once we accept it, once
7 we accepted it in February, that initiated an 18-
8 month formal review, in-depth safety review.

9 That's ongoing. We're about six months
10 into that. Now running in parallel, you know,
11 parallel to the safety review, we have an
12 environmental team that's developing an
13 Environmental Impact Statement. That review takes a
14 little bit longer, typically 24 months, and we're
15 also six months into that.

16 And that's primarily the reason we're
17 here this evening, as part of the Environmental
18 Impact Statement, to review your input. The
19 ultimate goal will be, once we've completed our
20 review, if we've determined that the Applicant
21 complies with the NRC's regulation, then we'll issue
22 a license, and as Dave mentioned, that'll be some
23 time in the early 2012 timeframe.

24 And of course we also have to say that
25 that schedule is dependent on the quality of the

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1 application, how the Applicant responds to our
2 questions, and any other high-priority safety issues
3 which may arise.

4 Okay. The safety review. Basically, we
5 have a review team. We have individuals that focus
6 in on reviewing the radioactive safety program in
7 the application. We have individuals that focus in
8 on the chemical safety, fire, emergency
9 preparedness, environmental issues, seismic issues,
10 security issues, etcetera. We have reviewers
11 looking at each of these areas, and they will all
12 contribute to the eventual determination that we
13 make.

14 In addition to reviewing the
15 application, International Isotopes has also
16 submitted--or done an Integrated Safety Analysis and
17 submitted a safety analysis summary, a document
18 that's completely separate from the application, and
19 in the I--this is also known as an ISA. In the ISA,
20 the Applicant works to identify all potential
21 accidents that could happen at the facility, and
22 then they rank those accidents, and any that could
23 be intermediate, or high consequence, they implement
24 what are called items relied on for safety. These
25 could be engineered systems, they could be safety

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1 systems, they could be procedures, and the goal is
2 to make it so that the accident is much less likely
3 to happen, or if it were to happen, the consequences
4 would be much less likely, or much less severe.

5 The outcome of our safety review is to
6 develop what's called a Safety Evaluation Report, or
7 SER. We're working on that right now, and as we go
8 through the application, typically, we'll come
9 across areas where we need more information, and
10 we'll submit requests for additional information to
11 the Applicant, and they'll respond.

12 But our ultimate goal is to develop this
13 Safety Evaluation Report document, which basically
14 says what we looked at and why we made the
15 determination that the Applicant complies with the
16 regulations. And then once we've made that
17 determination, we'll issue the license.

18 Opportunities to get involved. One way
19 to be involved is to--you can contact us. My e-mail
20 address, phone number, is there, if you have
21 questions or comments. You're always welcome to
22 shoot us, shoot me an e-mail, or a call. You can
23 also contact Asimios Malliakos, who's the
24 environmental project manager.

25 Another good way to get involved is what

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1 you're already doing, and that's participating in
2 these public meetings. We do these to get your
3 comments and get your feedback. In addition to this
4 environmental scoping meeting, we'll have three
5 additional meetings. Draft EIS. Once the draft EIS
6 is completed, we'll come back out and explain it,
7 and get your comments on it.

8 Once my piece, the SER, is completed,
9 we'll come back out and explain to you our findings,
10 again, to receive your comments. And then once the
11 facility is constructed, the NRC's role doesn't
12 stop. We have an in-depth inspection program that
13 beings, and follows the operations, to ensure that
14 the Applicant's doing what they committed to do, and
15 we'll come out and explain our inspection program.

16 As Dave mentioned, one good way to get
17 information, more information probably than you ever
18 wanted, is the public Web site, www.nrc.gov. If
19 you're looking for specific information, sometimes,
20 on International Isotopes, or on de-conversion,
21 sometimes it can be difficult to find. But here's
22 the specific Web site. We have created specific Web
23 sites that have information on de-conversion and
24 International Isotopes, and you can use these Web
25 sites to find it.

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1 And I should just mention that this Web
2 site for International Isotopes has the public
3 version of their license application, the public
4 version of their environmental report, so you can
5 actually access those documents online.

6 And then we also maintain an e-mail
7 distribution list, and this is just a list of people
8 who've expressed interest in receiving updates, and
9 documents on International Isotopes. If you let me
10 know, either by e-mailing me, telling me tonight, we
11 can add your name to that e-mail distribution list,
12 and we'll send you an e-mail any time we have an
13 update.

14 And at this point I will turn it over to
15 Asimios Malliakos, who's the environmental project
16 manager.

17 DR. MALLIAKOS: Thank you, Matt. Thank
18 you very much. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
19 It's good to see you here. Without you, we're not
20 going to have a public meeting. Thank you for
21 coming.

22 I'm going to be speaking on the
23 environmental review process of the proposed
24 fluorine extraction process and the de-conversion
25 facility that International Isotopes is proposing.

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1 It has been a significant effort up to this point in
2 time, not only for, to come to this point, for this
3 meeting, but also to meet with the public officials
4 who had a very good welcome, very good input, very
5 productive meetings, but also to come at this
6 meeting. Everything was very successful up to this
7 point in time. The meetings is in progress. All
8 this effort has paid off.

9 I would like also to thank the NRC
10 management for their support, and I would like to
11 thank my colleagues for their help. Without that,
12 we're not going to have a public meeting.

13 I had also a nice surprise coming to
14 Hobbs, coming to New Mexico, coming from Washington,
15 D.C. I thought this time of the year here is more
16 hot than Washington, D.C. That wasn't the case.
17 This is not what I found. It was cooler weather
18 here, and actually, I found the humidity--I was
19 expecting that I guess--the humidity is more here,
20 which feels even cooler. It was a nice surprise to
21 have.

22 But why we're here. We're here because
23 the NRC is conducting an environmental review as
24 part of the licensing application review of the
25 proposed International Isotopes facility. This

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1 review is required by the National Environmental
2 Policy Act of 1969, as amended. I'm going to speak
3 a little bit more on this later.

4 We're also here for your comments, any
5 input you might provide us, any comments, for any
6 issues you might think. We're going to use it to
7 refine the scope of our environmental review.

8 I would like to talk about the law,
9 regulation, and guidance documents we have. I just
10 spoke, in the earlier slide, about the National
11 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. A lot
12 of times we call it NEPA. And what NEPA is, is this
13 act was used to establish a national policy for the
14 environment and to provide for the establishment of
15 a Council of Environmental Quality, and for other
16 purposes.

17 We also use for regulation Title 10 of
18 the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 51. That Part
19 51 is titled Environmental Protection Regulations
20 for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory
21 Functions.

22 And this part contains environmental
23 protection regulations applicable to NRC's domestic
24 licensing and related regulatory functions.

25 And then for guidance documents, we have

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1 NUREG 1748. What is a NUREG. NUREGs are documents
2 that the NRC, NRC staff is producing. This one is
3 titled Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing
4 Actions Associated with NMSS programs. NMSS is one
5 of the offices within NRC. And the document
6 provides general procedures for the environmental
7 review of licensing actions regulated by the NRC.

8 What's the environmental process we're
9 following? For us to study environmental process,
10 we have to review an environmental report from an
11 Applicant. As a first step, we perform an
12 acceptance review.

13 The purpose of that review is to look
14 through and find out any major issues. Is anything
15 major missing, that will be an obstacle for us to
16 continue on with our review? If everything is okay,
17 then the environmental report is accepted for
18 further review, and we issue a Federal Register
19 notice.

20 Immediately after that, we engage
21 consulting and cooperating agencies, and in
22 parallel, we begin this scoping process, and we call
23 a public scoping meeting, and that's what we're
24 doing today, that is why we are here, and this is
25 one of the opportunities that the public can

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1 participate. One of them.

2 I'll come back to this slide later on,
3 because I'm going to follow the steps after that.

4 What's the scoping process of an
5 environmental review? Is a requirement of NEPA, and
6 also for NRC regulations. It's used to refine the
7 environmental review. We take it very seriously,
8 because it does refine the environmental review.

9 It's being used to receive and address
10 your comments. We are looking forward to that.
11 We're identifying any significant issues that you
12 may bring us up. It is also equally important for
13 us to identify anything that you might bring us,
14 that is not important. That way, we eliminate it.
15 We're identifying alternatives. What are
16 alternatives?

17 International Isotopes, or any
18 application proposes specific action. It may be a
19 specific plan. What we look into: Is any other way
20 we can address that need, that the company comes and
21 proposes?

22 One of the alternatives is also the "no
23 action alternative." In that case, what is going to
24 happen if that plant doesn't go forward, if the NRC
25 doesn't give license to that?

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1 We identify related documents that will
2 be used in the environmental review. We identify
3 other environmental review and consultation
4 requirements. And also the scoping process be used
5 to listen and receive written comments.

6 What is the proposed site? The proposed
7 site is in Lea County, and there is an environmental
8 report that International Isotopes has provided,
9 back in December 2009, and that report is accessible
10 at the NRC Web site.

11 What is an EIS? First, what it stands
12 for. EIS stands for Environmental Impact Statement.

13 And what is it? This is the document, that's the
14 report, that the NRC documents the environmental
15 review. It describes the potential environmental
16 impacts of the proposed action, and the
17 alternatives, the alternatives as I talked earlier,
18 and provides information to the public, for you, but
19 also it serves the purpose for the Agency to make--
20 for the decision makers of the Agency.

21 What are topics the Environmental Impact
22 Statement will address? It's five main topics.

23 First, the proposed action, including the purpose,
24 its purpose, and the need it meets. The
25 alternatives, including the "no action." The

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1 affected environment. Impact to the environment,
2 and mitigated measures. What are mitigated
3 measures?

4 Mitigated measures are these actions, or
5 these processes that the Applicant can use in order
6 to eliminate, reduce, and possibly eliminate,
7 impacts to the environment.

8 What effects we're considering. We
9 start from the beginning. Construction of the
10 facility, construction of the plant, operation, and
11 of course, after operation is complete, the
12 commissioning. Should include all these three
13 stages.

14 Example is just examples of review
15 areas, include air, water, soils, plants and
16 animals. Public and worker health. It is very
17 important for us. Historic archeological or
18 architectural property and artifacts. Economic
19 resources, cultural resources, and social services.
20 Also includes environmental justice.

21 What is environmental justice? Back on
22 February 11, in 1994, the President signed an
23 executive order--actually, the number is Executive
24 Order 12,898, and in this executive order
25 environmental justice is described as identifying

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1 and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately
2 high and adverse human health or environmental
3 effects of its programs, policies and activities, on
4 minority populations and low-income populations.

5 Also address impacts. This might be
6 direct, indirect, or cumulative. A direct impact,
7 to give you an example, is a new plant, a new
8 facility, is going to impact a number of people.
9 New salaries are coming to these people. This is a
10 direct impact to these people. These people,
11 they're going to use these salaries for their own
12 purpose, for their own use, to purchase goods in the
13 local economy. This is going to have an impact in
14 the local grocery store, in the local business.
15 That's an indirect impact. Is going to also have a
16 cumulative impact.

17 What is a cumulative impact? The
18 Council on Environmental Quality describes
19 cumulative impacts as the impact on the environment
20 which results from the action, connected to the
21 other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable
22 future actions, regardless of what agency, federal
23 or non-federal, or person, undertakes such other
24 actions. So we consider all these things.

25 Again to the slide I was talking

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1 earlier, once the public meeting finished, after
2 that, we're going to publish a scoping summary
3 report. We're going to identify and analyze
4 environmental impacts, and we are going to publish a
5 draft EIS for public comment.

6 Then again, we're going to begin a
7 public comment period, and we're going to hold a
8 public meeting on the draft EIS. This is another
9 opportunity for public participation. The comments
10 that we're going to get from the public, we're going
11 to use them to revise the draft EIS, Environmental
12 Impact Statement, and then we're going to publish
13 the final EIS, which is going to be used for the
14 licensing action.

15 How you can make a comment? First
16 thing, of course, you can speak at this meeting, and
17 we would like to hear your comments. As I said
18 before, we're taking the comments very seriously,
19 we're going to consider them in the review.
20 Regardless, if the comments bring an impact, or if
21 you tell us that there is something that we need to
22 eliminate from consideration, for us, is equally
23 important.

24 You can fill out of course a yellow card
25 at this meeting. You can send us an e-mail to the

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1 address, inis.eis@nrc.gov. Or you can write to the
2 NRC, Docket Number 440-9086, Chief, Rules and
3 Directives Branch, Mail Stop TWB5301M, U.S. Nuclear
4 Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001.

5 And one can get more information. We
6 have a project Web site. I can understand, it's
7 kind of difficult to write all these things down now
8 in a note. However, we have on the table outside
9 copies of the viewgraphs and all this others is here
10 and available there. They're also available at the
11 NRC's electronic reading room. Docket number again:
12 40-9086. And also in the Hobbs Public Library, the
13 environmental report of the Applicant is available
14 there.

15 You can also contact the NRC Licensing
16 Review Project Manager, Matt Bartlett, phone number
17 301-492-3119, or you can contact me. My phone
18 number: 301-415-6458. Thank you very much. Thank
19 you. And I will turn the meeting, the control of
20 the meeting to Bill.

21 MR. MAIER: You saw me violate the first
22 rule of facilitation just now.

23 I'll make one more pitch for anybody who
24 hasn't registered to make statements on the record
25 and would like to do so. We can get you a yellow

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1 card, if you're interested. If you'll please raise
2 your hand.

3 What we'll start now is the question-
4 and-answer session, and if there's anybody that has
5 a question, I'll come around with the mike, you can
6 ask the question. You can ask it of the three
7 officials who just spoke, and we have additional NRC
8 staff in the audience. If there's additional input
9 needed from them, we can go to them for answers as
10 well.

11 Anybody have a question they'd like to
12 ask.

13 Going once. If you'll stand up, and if
14 you want to state your name, you can; if not, that's
15 fine too.

16 MR. GROBBEN: My name is Gerard Grobбен.
17 I'm Dutch. Sorry. My English is not so good. But
18 I have a question. Since the licensing progress,
19 theme goes, it's already, already going before the
20 license is, is given, or is it also everybody has to
21 wait until the license is given, and then the first
22 spade goes in the ground?

23 MR. BARTLETT: Typically, the way the
24 regulations in Part 40, which this facility will be
25 regulated under, are written, currently written, the

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1 licensee, or the Applicant, can't begin any
2 construction until they receive a license. That
3 would be not until 2012. There is the option to
4 request, in a separate licensing request, actually
5 an exemption request, to be able to do what's called
6 prelicensing construction.

7 That would be things like moving dirt
8 around, constructing fences, warehouses. That
9 typically has to be done in a separate request where
10 we grant them an exemption to do that kind of
11 construction, and it could be done, you know, that
12 could take place in 2011, potentially. But that
13 would be a separate request and at this point we
14 haven't received such a request.

15 MR. MAIER: Any other questions from
16 anyone?

17 [No response]

18 MR. MAIER: Okay. What we'll do now is
19 maybe take a break, since we're ahead of schedule.
20 Is that okay with you folks? Why don't we do that.

21 If anybody needs to either, you know, make a phone
22 call, visit the rest room or something. It's 6:25.

23 If we'll come back within 15 minutes, and we'll
24 start on schedule with speakers comments at 6:40.

25 [A recess was taken from 6:26 p.m. until

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1 6:41 p.m.]

2 MR. MAIER: And 110 minutes to get it
3 done, and that's 11 minutes per speaker. I'm hoping
4 that no speaker expects to go beyond 11 minutes. So
5 I'll rely on your self-regulating capabilities.

6 I would like Mr. Marco Grajeda to please
7 come to the lectern. Mr. Grajeda is representing
8 U.S. Senator Tom Udall.

9 MR. GRAJEDA: Good evening. As you
10 mentioned, my name is Marco Grajeda, and I'm a field
11 representative for Senator Tom Udall, and I have a
12 brief statement from the senator, and thanks for
13 allowing me to read this.

14 "Thank you for allowing me to share a
15 few words with you today. I wish that I could be
16 here in person. First of all, I would like to thank
17 the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for holding
18 this meeting in Hobbs. It's important that folks
19 from Lea County get a chance to share their opinions
20 during the environmental scoping process, and I
21 trust you will take the views expressed today very
22 seriously.

23 "I have heard many good things about the
24 proposed International Isotopes fluorine products
25 facility, and I'm very excited about the possibility

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1 of a new energy-related business coming to this
2 already-important region. But there is still an
3 important step ahead of us.

4 "The NRC has the important task of
5 ensuring that the people and environment of Lea
6 County and New Mexico will be protected. If the NRC
7 gives the company the go-ahead, I believe the
8 International Isotopes would provide good jobs
9 resulting in an economic investment for the region.

10 "In addition, the company will recycle
11 left-over material from the uranium enrichment
12 process more efficiently, helping to facilitate our
13 nation's clean energy future.

14 "Because of this, I joined U.S. Senator
15 Jeff Bingaman and Congressman Harry Teague, this
16 week, in sending a letter of support for
17 International Isotopes' application to the
18 Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program.

19 "This program paves the way for federal
20 support to innovative energy-efficiency projects. I
21 look forward to the NRC conducting a thorough
22 analysis of the potential environmental impact of
23 this facility, so that in the nature, Lea County,
24 and our entire nation, can benefit from a safe and
25 successful depleted uranium de-conversion facility.

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1 "Sincerely, Tom Udall, United States
2 Senator."

3 MR. SKEEN: Thank you very much for that
4 comment. We appreciate that.

5 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Mr. Grajeda.

6 I'll now ask Commissioner Gary Schubert
7 from the Lea County Commission.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHUBERT: Good evening.
9 I'm proud to represent the Lea County commission
10 tonight. I'd like to read this letter that we
11 composed on behalf of the project, and addressed it
12 to Mr. Skeen.

13 "On behalf of the Lea County Board of
14 Commissioners, please be aware of our continuing
15 support
16 for the International Isotopes project. Lea County
17 has assisted International Isotopes with the site
18 selection and acquisition of the site property. We
19 have worked closely with Mr. Laflin and his staff,
20 and have been kept very well-informed of the
21 progress of the project by International Isotopes.

22 "Because of this communication of the
23 information, we feel very comfortable with the
24 project and our new corporate citizen. We welcome
25 the evolution of the project idea into reality.

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1 "Because the open communication of
2 International Isotopes and the capable oversight of
3 the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the
4 citizens of Lea County are supportive of this
5 opportunity as we continue to add to the supporting
6 industries of the EnergyPlex. We welcome the
7 opportunity to help provide a workforce that can be
8 used to implement the technological assets of
9 International Isotopes while we diversify our
10 economy and expand the nuclear culture in Lea
11 County.

12 "We stand, once again, ready to assist
13 International Isotopes and the U.S. Nuclear
14 Regulatory Commission to make this project a
15 reality. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity
16 to communicate our strong support for the project."

17 MR. SKEEN: Thank you very much.

18 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Schubert. I'll now ask Mayor Gary Don Reagan to
20 come say a few words.

21 MAYOR REAGAN: Thank you very much. I'd
22 like, first of all, to officially welcome each of
23 you to the City of Hobbs. This facility is in the
24 city limits of Hobbs, so I want you to know that
25 we're very proud of that. We appreciate your

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1 coming,. I was here at the earlier meeting that you
2 had several months ago, and learned the process. So
3 I'll be very brief.

4 And yet, when I was told about the
5 meeting today, I was asked, did I have any issues or
6 concerns that would relate to environmental or
7 safety issues?

8 And for the record, officially, the
9 answer's no. Okay? So I'm going to go past that.
10 Every now and then in the real world, something
11 happens that makes a whole lot of sense, and when
12 you think about what Urenco has now done--and we
13 learned Tuesday night at a meeting that Louisiana
14 Energy Services is no longer using that name in Lea
15 County. They want to be known as Urenco, because
16 they're not Louisiana anymore. Okay?

17 So I'm going to say Urenco. It's the
18 plant five miles east of Eunice, that does the
19 uranium enrichment. But what makes sense to me, is
20 that when the uranium enrichment process finishes--
21 and Matt Bartlett mentioned this earlier--there is a
22 byproduct that they commonly call "tail" in the
23 industry, and that's a fancy term for me--but what
24 do you do with the byproduct after the Urenco
25 process? And understand at some point, not too

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1 awfully far in the future, the Urenco plant will be
2 manufacturing one-half of the fuel needed for
3 enrichment in all the nuclear reactors in the United
4 States, as I understand it. Now I certainly could
5 be wrong.

6 But it's a tremendous amount of
7 production, going to be a lot of "tail," a lot of
8 waste. International Isotopes comes around and
9 says, oh, we can make a contract with Urenco, take
10 that waste, or some of that waste product, and
11 certainly not all--but take some of that waste
12 product, and believe it or not, make usable and
13 useful things in American society. Well, what kind
14 of things?

15 I remember, from the first presentation
16 I ever saw, the screens for cell phones, TVs. Steve
17 Laflin's here. He can tell you the whole bunch
18 more. But things that are imminently useful in our
19 society today, and what better way to take care of
20 those "tails." So that makes sense to me. As a
21 person who's not a scientist, by any stretch, that
22 make a lot of sense.

23 So I'm delighted that's going on. I'm
24 delighted that each of you came today, all the staff
25 that's here, and as you know, we very much support

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1 that.

2 And in summary, I'm wearing my badge
3 that says International Isotopes, Inc., welcome to
4 Lea County. Thank you. I don't have any written
5 comments.

6 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Mayor Reagan.

7 I'll ask Mayor Matt White of the City of
8 Eunice to please come to the lectern, and I'll ask
9 the following folks to please come sit up in the
10 front. The future speakers.

11 Lisa Hardison. Curtis Schrader. And
12 Robert Caudle.

13 MAYOR WHITE: Good evening. I'd like to
14 also thank the NRC for being here tonight. This is
15 not our first rodeo, I can tell you that, but we do
16 appreciate your being here. I am here to offer
17 support for this program, 100 percent. We've been
18 actively involved throughout the Urenco/LES project.
19 We've been highly impressed with the NRC and their
20 process. We're very pleased with the way that
21 safety is handled on the project, during the design
22 as well as through construction.

23 During--I think the mayor already
24 mentioned, during the licensing for LES, it was
25 always a concern on the storage, from the governor

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1 all the way down, about the tailings and the
2 containers. Again, I support this project cause I
3 think it helps with this issue, has a place for us
4 to go with the tailings.

5 We've been very involved throughout the
6 developing and very pleased with all the planning.
7 I'd like to thank the International Isotopes group.

8 Even though we're not the community next to this
9 project, they have involved us. They personally
10 came down and briefed the City of Eunice, and the
11 council, on what was going on, and we have been--
12 I've been very impressed with what they're doing.

13 Basically, we're here to offer support
14 for the program. Thank you.

15 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Mayor White.

16 The next speaker will be Lisa Hardison.

17 Lisa is the president of the Economic Development
18 Corporation of Lea County.

19 MS. HARDISON: Well, it's a pleasure to
20 have you back in our community again, and a joy to
21 have you here. I hope that you enjoyed your stay in
22 the EnergyPlex, and we will welcome you back again,
23 some day.

24 I have two letters to read. Senator
25 Carroll Leavell asked that I read one on his behalf,

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1 and I will do that now.

2 "Senate District 41 includes the south
3 half of both Lea and Eddy Counties. The proposed
4 International Isotopes plant is just north of this
5 senate district but will impact the constituents of
6 the district. The jobs created by the construction
7 and operation of this project will have a very
8 positive impact on the citizens of this district.

9 "I have heard no negative concerns
10 expressed about the operation of the proposed plant.

11 My duties have me in Santa Fe this week, so I will
12 not be available for the public hearing on the
13 licensing of the International Isotopes. I wish the
14 NRC to know my strong support of the proposal to
15 construct and operate an integrated fluorine
16 extraction process and a depleted uranium de-
17 conversion plant 14 miles west of Hobbs, New Mexico.

18 "The citizens of senate District 41 are
19 knowledgeable concerning the management and
20 processing of uranium, as well as the management of
21 nuclear waste, due to the history of WIP in Eddy
22 County, and now the operation of Urenco in Lea
23 County.

24 "As I have previously stated, you will
25 find strong support for the project in the

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1 leadership of Southeast New Mexico. I would urge
2 the NRC to contact me at any time you have any
3 concerns that I might answer. Thank you for your
4 positive consideration of this project."

5 MR. MAIER: Thank you.

6 MS. HARDISON: And then I would like to
7 also read some comments from the EDC of Lea County,
8 from our chairman, Sam Spencer.

9 "The Economic Development Corporation of
10 Lea County is in full support of the International
11 Isotopes planned fluorine extraction facility in Lea
12 County. We are confident that this industry will
13 help to continue to diversify our economy and create
14 high-paying jobs for Lea County residents.

15 "INIS has provided comprehensive
16 information to our organization, county leaders, and
17 area residents, about their planned project, and, in
18 turn, representatives from the EDC and the community
19 have visited their concurrent operations in Idaho.
20 This business will complement Lea County's uranium
21 enrichment processing plant and will help to further
22 utilize the skills of our workforce.

23 "We have found INIS to be forthcoming
24 with their facility plans, and their leaders to
25 conduct business with integrity. It is through this

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1 thorough due diligence process, that we have been
2 assured that the INIS facility will have a positive
3 impact on the economic diversity and prosperity of
4 Lea County.

5 "We hope that you will take our comments
6 of support into consideration during your evaluation
7 process. Without hesitation, the EDCLC supports the
8 construction and licensure of the International
9 Isotopes facility."

10 MR. MAIER: Thank you very much.

11 Thank you, Ms. Hardison.

12 The next speaker will be Mr. Curtis
13 Schrader. Mr. Schrader is the city manager of the
14 City of Eunice.

15 MR. SCHRADER: Thank you. It's a
16 pleasure to have the NRC back here in Lea County.
17 It's always good to see the staff of the NRC. As
18 has been mentioned by the previous speakers, Lea
19 County is very supportive of this project. The City
20 of Eunice is very supportive of this project. The
21 NRC, I think very appropriately, has as their motto,
22 "Protecting people and the environment," and I think
23 that's probably the main thing that we have seen in
24 our experience of working with the NRC to get the
25 Urenco USA facility up and operational.

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1 The depth and the breadth of review and
2 analysis, and study, and review and analysis, and
3 study, and Perry and Dave are both looking at me--
4 [laughter]--has been really an amazing process, and
5 as our mayor mentioned, this isn't our first rodeo.

6 And I think any time you deal with a project, it's
7 always helpful to have another project to look at,
8 to see what went right, what went wrong, and the
9 fact that this type of project isn't one that gets
10 built every day in the United States, and hasn't,
11 for over 30 years.

12 And I think that it's been a very
13 valuable learning process for both the NRC staff and
14 for the community of Lea County, to have gone
15 through an NRC licensing and permitting and
16 operational process already. And I am very
17 confident that because of that process, that this
18 facility will receive its operational license and
19 that the ongoing inspection of that facility will be
20 just as thorough and just as comprehensive as the
21 process that the NRC staff is currently using with
22 the Urenco USA facility.

23 From a support standpoint, the City of
24 Eunice always tries to support our biggest suburb,
25 of Hobbs. Just kind a let that wash over you a

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1 little bit, and it'll sink in. And we are
2 definitely happy to offer our support to this
3 facility. It's about 25 miles from Eunice, and with
4 all these NRC facilities in Lea County, let me be
5 the first person to offer you some office space in
6 the City of Eunice.

7 MR. SKEEN: Thank you very much for your
8 comments.

9 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Mr. Schrader.

10 The next speaker will be Mr. Robert
11 Caudle, and while Mr. Caudle is coming to the
12 lectern, I'll ask the following folks to please come
13 towards the front of the room.

14 Hollis Riley. Evelyn Holgeen
15 (phonetic). And Kenyon Burns. The next speaker is
16 Mr. Robert Caudle. Mr. Caudle is with the New
17 Mexico Center for Energy Policy.

18 MR. CAUDLE: Thank you very much. Thank
19 you all for coming here. This is a very, very
20 important process, which we very much support, along
21 with expressed support for this particular
22 application. But again, thank you. I certainly
23 support these areas that you note that you regulate,
24 and look forward to International Isotopes
25 successful completion and issuance. Thank you.

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1 MR. SKEEN: Thank you.

2 MR. MAIER: Thank you.

3 Mr. Hollis Riley.

4 MR. RILEY: Well, hey, guys, I want to--
5 can you hear me now?

6 MR. MAIER: Yes, sir.

7 MR. RILEY: Well, I want to thank you
8 for all this time. I'm a member of the
9 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
10 Local Union 611, and we have our counterpart, we
11 call them NICA, the National Electrical Contractors
12 Association. They're all in favor of the Isotopes
13 plant here in Lea County.

14 But I wanted to mention something about
15 the safety on these projects. I'm kind of one of
16 the lucky guys. Or unlucky. I've worked, what we
17 call, with our tools, nuclear power plants. I worked
18 out here at Urenco for two and a half years. So
19 just to reinforce it, safety is their number one
20 priority on these projects. We're just--you know,
21 we're for the Isotopes--you know.

22 MR. MAIER: Good. Thank you very much.

23 Thank you, sir. Ms. Holgeen informs me
24 that Ms. Burns will be speaking for her. So Mr.
25 Kenyon Burns. Mr. Burns is with the Lovington

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1 Economic Development Corporation.

2 MR. BURNS: Good afternoon, NRC staff.
3 Thank you for being here this afternoon. My name is
4 Kenyon Burns. I'm the president of the Lovington
5 Economic Development Corporation. I have a brief
6 letter of support that I'd like to read, right
7 quick, on behalf of the EDC of Lovington.

8 "The Lovington Economic Development
9 Corporation would like to express our support of the
10 International Isotopes fluorine extraction facility
11 plant here, in Lea County. We're proud that
12 International Isotopes has selected Lea County as
13 the site of their project, and we look forward to
14 the positive enhancements that this new industry
15 will bring to our residents.

16 "International Isotopes has projected
17 that their proposed industrial development project
18 will provide 150 well-paying jobs,. These newly-
19 created jobs will offer greater opportunity to our
20 residents and help diversify our economic base. Lea
21 County enthusiastically embraced the LES facility,
22 and the same positive support is found for the
23 International Isotopes project.

24 "The Lovington Economic Development
25 Corporation knows that the residents of Lea County

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1 will be the beneficiary of increased prosperity with
2 each new project that is gained, and International
3 Isotopes will create a positive impact.

4 "Without reservation, the Lovington
5 economic Development Corporation supports the
6 proposed International Isotopes project. Thank you
7 very much."

8 MR. SKEEN: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Mr. Burns. Mr.
10 Burns was the last registered speaker. And we have
11 another card. Commissioner Jonathan Sena from the
12 City of Hobbs.

13 COMMISSIONER SENA: We just want to say
14 thank you so much for being a part of our community
15 and we are honored to have you here, and we look
16 forward to an incredible partnership with you all.

17 It's been such a pleasure to work with
18 Urenco, and we believe that everything that
19 International Isotopes will bring to our community
20 is just further steps in an incredible, incredible
21 community that just supports the nuclear industry.
22 So thank you so much.

23 MR. SKEEN: Thank you.

24 MR. MAIER: Thank you, Commissioner
25 Sena.

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1 That's the end of the registered
2 speakers. We are an hour and a half ahead of time.
3 What are we going to do for that period of time? I
4 don't know.

5 If there is anyone else who would like
6 to bring to the NRC's attention any sort of issues,
7 or environmental considerations they think the NRC
8 should be aware of, could you please raise your hand
9 and we'll recognize you.

10 Not hearing any or seeing any hands, I
11 think I'll give the folks of the NRC and the panel
12 an opportunity. If you want to close this out with
13 some comments, Dave.

14 MR. SKEEN: Sure. On behalf of the NRC,
15 we certainly appreciate the comments that we got
16 here this evening. Clearly, there's a lot of
17 support from the community here, and we understand
18 that and appreciate that. Recognize again, our role
19 here is in scoping out the environmental impacts
20 that this facility could have on the area, and so we
21 appreciate the meetings that we've had with the
22 officials this week, business leaders, first
23 responders, and we'll take away the comments that we
24 got here this evening and you will see us again.

25 Once we get the draft Environmental

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1 Impact Statement ready and issued for public
2 comment, we'll be back down here in the spring of
3 next year, to visit with you again.

4 So again, appreciate your interest, that
5 we had a good turnout here this evening, and that we
6 clearly understand the people of this area support
7 this application. So again, thank you very much.

8 [Applause]

9 MR. MAIER: Thank you very much. I
10 guess I also wanted to recognize some people who
11 didn't get a chance to speak. There are some other
12 folks from the NRC who are here. You saw Tarsha.
13 She was probably the hardest-working person here in
14 the room tonight. I want to thank her for the
15 support she did in getting the room set up. I want
16 to thank you again, Pam, for the transcript
17 services. And we also had other members of the NRC
18 who didn't get a chance to speak. I'll ask them to
19 just stand for a second.

20 Diana Diaz-Toro. Diana is the branch
21 chief of the Environmental Review Branch A, and has
22 branch responsibility for the project that will do
23 the environmental review of the International
24 Isotopes facility.

25 Molly Barkman. Molly is an attorney in

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1 our Office of the General Counsel. She was here to,
2 I guess, keep us all in line, and answer any
3 questions regarding any potential hearings or things
4 like that.

5 And Tom Hiltz. Tom is the chief of the
6 Advanced Fuel Cycle, Enrichment and Uranium
7 Conversion Branch. Did I get that right?

8 [Laughter]

9 MR. MAIER: I'll have to get another
10 look at that org chart when we get out of here. Tom
11 is the branch chief responsible for the project
12 management for the safety portion of the review of
13 the license.

14 With that, I think I will thank you very
15 much for coming to our meeting. I particularly want
16 to thank the speakers for making the comments that
17 they did, making sure that their thoughts and
18 feelings were known. I will urge you, once again,
19 to please, if you have the time, pick up one of
20 those public meeting feedback forms. You don't have
21 to give it back to one of us. You can give it back
22 to any of the NRC folks who I've identified. But
23 you can also just fold it in three folds, in two
24 folds in three places, and you can put it in the
25 mail.

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1 We would very much welcome your
2 feedback, and figure out how to give you a better
3 product next time we come out here.

4 Any questions?

5 [No response]

6 MR. MAIER: Thank you very much and have
7 a safe drive home.

8 [Whereupon, at 7:06 p.m., the meeting
9 was concluded]

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