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Paris Stringfellow
AREVA

Good evening.

My name is Paris Stringfellow and I am a human factors engineer with AREVA. I have a PhD in industrial engineering with a focus on human factors – that means that I am interested in designing systems so that people can use them effectively with minimum risk of human error. I have worked to reduce human error in many fields including aviation, maintenance, large-scale construction, rail, latent fingerprint analysis and criminal investigations, and healthcare.

All of these industries rely on people to do their jobs accurately. However, at the end of the day, people are people – and people make mistakes. Therefore, it's my job to design the environments and tools that they use so that the mistakes that they make are recoverable and do not result in an adverse outcome.

I have been in the nuclear industry for the past 2.5 years and have come to view it as one of the most safety conscious work environments that I have ever worked in. For example, in this industry the operator is recognized as part of the system and every task he performs is evaluated for its impact on the safety of the plant. This means that if a job is deemed to be “too risky,” then the job itself will be redesigned. As a result, the nuclear industry has had a long history of safe human performance.

With regards to nuclear waste management in our country, it is suffice to say that we need a long term plan for nuclear waste storage. However, I want to point out that should the NRC's determination fall in favor of long-term storage, I have confidence in the industry's ability ensure that the waste is managed in a safe and efficient manner and that the human is considered in the loop. ^{Proportionally} ^{facility} this process.

Thank you.

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Between 44,000 and 98,000 Americans die each year in U.S. hospitals due to preventable medical errors (Institute Of Medicine, 1999).