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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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CHARLOTTE WASTE CONFIDENCE PUBLIC MEETING

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MONDAY

NOVEMBER 4, 2013

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The Waste Confidence Public Meeting met
in the University Ballroom, 8629 J.M. Keynes Drive,
Charlotte, North Carolina, at 7:00 p.m., Chip
Cameron, Facilitator, presiding.

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1 PRESENT:

2

3 CHIP CAMERON, Co-Facilitator

4 MIRIAM JUCKETT, Co-Facilitator

5 CARRIE SAFFORD, Deputy Director of the Waste

6 Confidence Directorate

7 ANDY IMBODEN, Chief of Communications, Planning, and

8 Rulemaking Branch, Waste Confidence

9 Directorate

10 KEITH MCCONNELL, Director of the Waste

11 Confidence Directorate

12 SARAH PRICE, Office of General Counsel

13 T.R. ROWE

14 JOHN STAMATAKOS

15 SUSAN WITTICK

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

7:01 p.m.

MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. If we could all take our seats, we'll get started with today's meeting. Good evening, everyone.

My name is Chip Cameron, and I'd like to welcome you to the public meeting, and our topic tonight is the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has prepared on the subject of waste confidence.

Tonight, we'll try to be clear for you, but two acronyms that you will hear are NRC or Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and EIS for Environmental Impact Statement. It's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator tonight, and I'm going to be assisted by my co-facilitator. This is Miriam Juckett right there, and she's with the Center for Waste Regulatory Analysis in San Antonio, Texas.

In our role as facilitators, Miriam and I will try to help all of you to have a productive meeting tonight.

I just wanted to talk about three meeting process issues, so that you'll know what to expect tonight. One is the format for the meeting, the

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1 objective for the meeting, introduce the NRC staff to
2 you and talk about some simple ground rules that will
3 help us to have a productive meeting tonight.

4 In terms of the objective of the meeting,
5 it's fairly simple. The NRC staff is here tonight,
6 and they want to listen to your comments and
7 recommendations on the draft Environmental Impact
8 Statement and Proposed Rule.

9 The staff will then consider all of those
10 comments as it prepares the final Environmental Impact
11 Statement. As you'll hear from the staff in a few
12 minutes, the NRC is also asking for written comments
13 on these issues.

14 I just want to assure you that anything
15 that you say to the NRC tonight will carry the same
16 weight as the written comments that come in. Of
17 course, you're free to speak tonight and also submit a
18 written comment to us.

19 In terms of the format for the meeting,
20 after I'm doing with these brief remarks, we're going
21 to have some brief introductory statements from the
22 NRC staff, and then we'll have time, a few minutes for
23 some questions, to make sure that you understand the
24 process for commenting on the Environmental Impact
25 Statement, and then we're going to go to all of you,

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1 to hear your comments tonight.

2 In terms of ground rules, when we get to
3 the comment part of the meeting, I'm going to call
4 three names at a time, and if you could work your way
5 up to these chairs, then we'll keep the process
6 moving. But I'll call your name, and if you could
7 come up to the podium and introduce yourself to us,
8 including any affiliation, if appropriate, and then
9 we'll listen to your comment.

10 Second ground rule. I would ask that only
11 one person at a time speak tonight, and that's
12 important for two reasons, one of which is so that we
13 can give our complete attention to whomever has the
14 floor.

15 The second reason is so that we can get
16 what I call a clean transcript. We are taking a
17 transcript, and Chad Jackson over here is our
18 stenographer tonight. If we only have one person
19 speaking at a time, Chad will know who that person is
20 to identify on the transcript.

21 That transcript is going to be the NRC's
22 record of the meeting, and it's also going to be your
23 record of the meeting, and that will be publicly
24 available.

25 The third ground rule is probably the most

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1 important, in that I'm going to ask you to be brief in
2 your comments tonight. The good news is that there's
3 lots of interest in this subject, and it's great to
4 have all of you here to talk to us tonight. We do
5 have about 65 people who want to speak tonight.

6 So I'm going to ask you to follow a three-
7 minute time limit tonight in your remarks, and that's
8 going to give us an opportunity to hear from all of
9 you tonight. I know even with three minutes that
10 we're going to be going beyond the ten o'clock end
11 time of the meeting, and we're glad to do that.

12 But we do want to try to get out of here
13 sometime before the sun comes up tomorrow. I'm
14 assuming -- it's a big assumption perhaps, but I'm
15 assuming that that's going to happen.

16 But I think that three minutes are going
17 to give you a chance to share your major concerns with
18 the NRC, and it's also going to give them a chance to
19 start thinking about the recommendations that you're
20 making, and that's important.

21 I apologize in advance if I have to ask
22 you to finish up, because I know that you spend a lot
23 of time preparing your comments for these meetings.
24 My colleague, John Stamatakos right here, he's also
25 from the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis

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1 down in San Antonio, Texas.

2 He's going to help me and he's going to
3 help you to keep track of the time. When you have one
4 minute left, he's going to hold up this sign. But he
5 will hold it up facing the speaker.

6 (Laughter.)

7 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
8 Thank you, John. So that will alert you to that, and
9 hopefully, if calling three people at the time to come
10 up, that will also help us to speed up, and hopefully
11 we won't feel like we're on a conveyor belt tonight.

12 But we are looking forward to hearing from
13 you, and luckily there's ways that you can amplify on
14 your comments. There's the written comments that you
15 can submit. There's something called a feedback form,
16 which is they're on the chairs, and if you need one,
17 we'll get you one. But this is an NRC evaluation form
18 for public meetings, and it tells the NRC about how
19 public meetings can be improved.

20 But also there's space on here. If you
21 want to write a comment about the draft EIS or
22 Proposed Rule, you can put it on here. It's already
23 what they call "franked." You don't have to put a
24 stamp on it. You can just put it in the mail, or you
25 can leave it here tonight at the desk, and the NRC

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1 staff will pick that up.

2 There's also two more public meetings,
3 where there'll be an opportunity for people to call on
4 the phone, toll free number, and one of those is going
5 to be on November 14th, and the other one is going to
6 be on December 9th, and the staff, NRC staff, will
7 tell you more about that.

8 Finally, in terms of ground rules, I would
9 just ask for all of us to be courteous to everybody.
10 You may hear views tonight that you don't agree with.

11 But just respect the person who's giving that
12 particular view, and note that the NRC staff is here
13 tonight to listen to your comments.

14 So they're not going to be responding to
15 your comments tonight. But they are going to
16 carefully consider your comments, and any questions
17 that you might state from the podium, they'll be
18 considering those comments and questions, and they
19 will be documenting how they are responding to those
20 in the final Environmental Impact Statement.

21 After the NRC presentations and I'll
22 introduce the staff to you in a minute, we'll have
23 time to just make sure that you understand how you
24 submit comments, the date, where you submit them, any
25 other public meetings.

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1 But we won't be able to take any questions
2 on any other subjects, because we just don't have the
3 time. But to try to -- to try to provide some
4 information to you. We have some experts from the
5 NRC, technical staff and legal staff and consultants,
6 and some of these are the authors of parts of the
7 Environmental Impact Statement.

8 They're going to be outside in the foyer
9 for the whole meeting. If a question occurs to you
10 and you need to get an answer, go out and ask them,
11 and they'll answer your question. But note that if
12 you want to get that question or that discussion on
13 the record, you need to put it in your comment up
14 here, because it won't be recorded out there.

15 I would just thank you, and let me
16 introduce the NRC staff to you, and we can get on with
17 the meeting. I'm going to introduce the two NRC staff
18 who are going to speak to you tonight first.

19 One is Carrie Safford, who's right here,
20 and Carrie is the Deputy Director of the Waste
21 Confidence Directorate. We're then going to hear from
22 Andy Imboden, and Andy is the chief of the
23 Communications and Rulemaking Branch in the Waste
24 Confidence Directorate.

25 So they'll be talking to you, and let me

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1 introduce some other people to you. Keith McConnell.
2 Keith is the Director of the Waste Confidence
3 Directorate at the NRC, and this is Sarah Price.
4 Sarah is from our Office of General Counsel, and T.R.
5 Rowe right here.

6 You've met Susan Wittick, who's at the
7 desk. T.R. and Susan take care of all the logistical
8 arrangements, not only for these meetings, but for
9 everything the Waste Confidence Directorate does. So
10 they make things work. So thank you for that.

11 And with that, can we go to Carrie? This
12 is Carrie Safford.

13 MS. SAFFORD: Good evening and welcome.
14 Thank you for joining us tonight. As Chip mentioned,
15 my name is Carrie Safford and I'm the Deputy Director
16 of the Waste Confidence Directorate at the NRC.

17 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
18 obtain the public's comments and input on the Waste
19 Confidence Proposed Rule, and draft Generic
20 Environmental Impact Statement. Both of these were
21 published on September 13th.

22 We're going to start off with a brief
23 presentation by Andy Imboden, and we're going to try
24 to keep that limited in time, so we can maximize the
25 amount of time that we hear from you folks tonight.

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1 As Chip mentioned, we have our technical
2 experts out in the lobby area. So please feel free to
3 go out and speak with them if you have specific
4 questions about the technical aspects of our
5 documents.

6 I want to start off tonight with just a
7 few general comments on our rulemaking efforts at the
8 NRC. Writing regulations is one of the most important
9 things that we do at the NRC. The regulations are our
10 vehicle for implementing national and international
11 policy, and for achieving the NRC's goals of
12 maintaining public health and safety, and security and
13 protection of the environment. It's an extremely
14 important activity.

15 Over the past year, the Directorate has
16 been involved in an effort to assess the environmental
17 impacts of the continued storage of spent nuclear
18 fuel, beyond a reactor's license life for operations.

19 The draft Environmental Impact Statement and the
20 Proposed Rule are the results of that effort.

21 We've strived to provide an open and
22 transparent process, and now we look forward to
23 hearing your comments tonight on the Proposed Rule and
24 the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement.

25 I also want to point out briefly that in

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1 the Proposed Rule, there are some specific areas, four
2 questions to be precise, that the NRC Commissioners
3 have asked for your input. There's a handout out in
4 the lobby area as well, that lays out the four
5 questions for your reference.

6 Your feedback on those questions in all
7 areas in the Proposed Rule and Generic Environmental
8 Impact Statement are valuable for us, and they provide
9 us with valuable information for the Commission during
10 their deliberations before the final rule is
11 published.

12 Finally, I just want to touch on a few
13 brief points on schedule. As everyone here is
14 probably aware, the government was shut down in
15 October, and we had to reschedule a number of our
16 public meetings. All of the new meetings have been
17 renoticed, and in light of the new meeting schedule,
18 the deadline for submitting your public comments has
19 been extended to December 20th.

20 The dates and locations and times of all
21 of the new rescheduled meetings have been issued in
22 *Federal Register* notices, on our website under the
23 Waste Confidence Information tab, and through WC
24 Outreach, which is our email distribution list.

25 So once again welcome. Thank you for

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1 coming out tonight. I now turn it over to Andy
2 Imboden for his presentation.

3 MR. IMBODEN: Good evening. My name is
4 Andy Imboden. I'm the chief of the Communications,
5 Planning and Rulemaking Branch at the NRC, and I would
6 like to add to Carrie's welcome.

7 Thank you all for coming here. I'll be
8 going through a slide show, and if you're interested,
9 hard copies of the slide presentation are available
10 out in the foyer.

11 At tonight's meeting, I will first give a
12 brief history of Waste Confidence, outline key aspects
13 of the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement
14 and the Proposed Rule, and explain how you can comment
15 on the documents.

16 Then we'll get to the heart of the
17 meeting, which is the public comment portion. Waste
18 Confidence accomplishes two things. It generically
19 addresses the environmental impacts of continued
20 storage, and makes a determination about the
21 feasibility of safe storage and the time frame for
22 repository availability.

23 The draft Generic Environmental Impact
24 Statement for Waste Confidence satisfies just part of
25 the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act

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1 obligations for reactor licensing and relicensing, and
2 the licensing and relicensing of spent fuel storage
3 facilities.

4 The draft Environmental Impact Statement
5 also serves as a regulatory basis to support changing
6 the Waste Confidence Rule. The Environmental Impact
7 Statement and Proposed Rule only cover the time frame
8 after a reactor's license has expired.

9 However, it's important to note that the
10 Proposed Rule on Waste Confidence does not license any
11 particular site or facility, nor does it allow the
12 long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel at any site.
13 The NRC's history with Waste Confidence began when the
14 Rule was issued in 1984. Since then, the Rule has
15 been updated on several occasions, most recently in
16 2010.

17 In 2012, the Rule was challenged and the
18 D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the 2010
19 rulemaking. The Court identified three deficiencies
20 with the Commission's environmental analysis that
21 supported the 2010 Waste Confidence Rule.

22 The Court found that the analysis did not
23 evaluate the environmental effects of failing to
24 secure permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel. The
25 Court also directed the NRC to provide a forward-

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1 looking assessment of spent fuel pool leaks, and an
2 analysis of spent fuel pool fires.

3 The Court stated that a generic approach,
4 either with an environmental assessment or an
5 environmental impact statement would appropriately
6 address issues associated with Waste Confidence.

7 Following the court's decision, the
8 Commission directed the staff to go forth with an
9 environmental impact statement evaluating these
10 issues, with the possibility of issuing a new Waste
11 Confidence Rule.

12 There are two things I'd like for you to
13 remember. The first is that Waste Confidence is just
14 a small part of the overall environmental review for
15 reactor or storage facility licensing. Secondly, the
16 Waste Confidence Rule does not license any facility or
17 authorize storage after the expiration of a facility's
18 license.

19 The draft statement describes the impacts
20 of continuing to store spent nuclear fuel beyond the
21 license life for operation of a reactor, whether in
22 spent fuel pools or at independent spent fuel storage
23 installations located at both reactor and away from
24 the reactor sites.

25 The draft statement describes why the NRC

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1 is revising Waste Confidence. It discusses the
2 alternatives that were considered. It describes how
3 the environmental impacts were evaluated. It
4 describes what facilities are covered, and the
5 environmental impacts of continued storage at reactor
6 sites and away from reactor sites.

7 It also contains information on the costs
8 of the alternatives to the rulemaking. It describes
9 the cumulative environmental impacts of continued
10 storage, and it contains information on the
11 feasibility of a repository, and the feasibility of
12 safe storage of the spent fuel.

13 The draft statement assessed impacts of
14 continued spent fuel storage for three time frames,
15 based on when a repository would become available.
16 The first time frame is the short-term time frame, or
17 60 years following license expiration.

18 The second is long term, which would 100
19 years beyond the short term, for a total of 160 years
20 following license expiration. The other scenario was
21 indefinite storage, where no repository becomes
22 available.

23 The draft statement serves as the
24 regulatory basis for the Proposed Rule. The Proposed
25 Rule would generically address the environmental

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1 impacts of continued storage. These impacts would not
2 be revisited in future site-specific licensing
3 actions, unless the NRC discovers something about the
4 site that would make the application of the
5 conclusions in the Environmental Impact Statement
6 inappropriate.

7 The Proposed Rule would revise the Nuclear
8 Regulatory Commission's regulations. Specifically the
9 citation is Title 10 of the Code of Federal
10 Regulations, Section 51.23. The Proposed Rule states
11 that the analysis supports the Commission's
12 determinations that it is feasible to safely store
13 spent nuclear fuel following license life for reactor
14 operations.

15 It also states that it is feasible to have
16 a mined geologic repository within 60 years following
17 the license life for operation of a reactor. We are
18 specifically seeking comment on whether the final rule
19 should contain these last two statements.

20 There are several ways to comment. To
21 ensure that your comments are considered, they must be
22 received by December 20th, 2013. Mailed comments must
23 be postmarked by December 20th. All comments, whether
24 submitted in writing or provided orally, are
25 considered equally.

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1 Some have commented already and others
2 will comment later, and we're here tonight so you can
3 tell us your comments on the Generic Environmental
4 Impact Statement and Proposed Rule. Tonight's
5 comments are being transcribed, and will be considered
6 part of the record.

7 You can also leave written comments with
8 the NRC staff located at the registration table, and
9 we'll make sure that those comments are added to the
10 docket as well. You may email, fax, or mail your
11 comments to the NRC. You may also provide comments
12 using the *Federal Register*, I mean the Federal e-
13 Rulemaking website, www.regulations.gov.

14 That concludes the NRC's presentation, and
15 thank you for your attention. Chip.

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you Andy.

17 Thank you Carrie. I just want to make sure that the
18 process for submitting comments, the public meetings
19 where you can call in, schedule. Are there any
20 questions on that tonight, before we go out to all of
21 you for comments? Ahh, okay. And just introduce
22 yourself to us please.

23 MS. THOMAS: I'm Ellen Thomas, and I was
24 wondering, when I submit comments this evening, does
25 this mean that I can't submit any future comments, or

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1 can I say -- if I see something that I want to add to
2 my comments, I can do that?

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Oh yes, Ellen. You
4 can submit comments, and in fact, one of the reasons
5 why the NRC has these meetings before the end of the
6 comment period, is because you might hear something
7 from the NRC speakers or from other people in the
8 audience, that will give you an idea about commenting.

9 So actually we want to encourage people to
10 submit written comments also. But good question.
11 Thank you, Ellen. Anybody else before we get started?

12 (No response.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, great. Well,
14 I'm going to call four names, and it's not a
15 requirement to come up and sit in these chairs, okay,
16 if you're already near the front. It's just a device
17 to give you time to get up here if you're way in the
18 back.

19 But our first four speakers are going to
20 be Lou Zeller, Mary Olson, Jeff Archie, and Jeff
21 Merrifield. So Lou, are you in here?

22 MR. ZELLER: Yes.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Lou's our first
24 speaker, and as I mentioned, John in the front row
25 will be keeping time for us.

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1 MR. ZELLER: Thank you. My name is Lou
2 Zeller. I'm Executive Director of the Blue Ridge
3 Environmental Defense League. We have active chapters
4 and projects in six southeastern states. Many of our
5 members are here tonight.

6 For example, from the state of Georgia and
7 other southeastern states. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak here tonight.

9 On behalf of the Blue Ridge Environmental
10 Defense League, which was founded in 1984, I submit
11 the following comments. After reviewing the draft
12 documents, we have the following observations and
13 recommendations.

14 One, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
15 should abandon the Waste Confidence Rule. Because it
16 is a general rule, it cannot apply to the 65 different
17 commercially operated power plant sites across the
18 nation. Each site is different and should be treated
19 as such. There should be individual plant
20 Environmental Impact Statements for all 65.

21 Number two. So-called independent spent
22 fuel storage installations would be de facto nuclear
23 waste dumps. The generic Waste Confidence Rule would
24 be based on finding one or more waste sites which
25 would be located in economically stressed communities.

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1 Potential sites would be in the southeast,
2 could be such as Savannah River or in the west, Native
3 American land such as Yucca Mountain. This is
4 fundamentally unjust.

5 Number three, long-term storage of
6 radioactive waste at nuclear power plant sites should
7 be done in dry, secure canisters. The industry which
8 made the waste and profited from it should manage it,
9 and storage onsite at nuclear power plants represents
10 the least hazard to public health in the area, both
11 near the reactors and along transport routes.

12 One of the most distressing things in this
13 Environmental Impact Statement is the fact that it is
14 generic. This is a term which flies in the face of
15 the facts of the matter, as I've just outlined. But
16 one of the particulars is that in the assessment, the
17 Proposed Rule would make amendments --.

18 The Proposed Rule would also clarify that
19 the generic determination applies to the license
20 renewal for independent spent fuel storage
21 installation. No, it would not license such a
22 facility, but the Generic Environmental Impact
23 Statement would apply to a temporary storage site, if
24 one were to be located in South Carolina at the
25 Savannah River site, perhaps one of the leading

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1 contenders for such a site.

2 That would mean high-level nuclear waste
3 trucked all over the United States through Highway 77,
4 on Highway 85, bound for the Savannah River site, and
5 exposing people all along the way. The Nuclear
6 Regulatory Commission should abandon the generic
7 approach. It should heed the advice and the direct
8 order of the United States Circuit Court for the
9 District of Columbia. Thank you for the opportunity.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Final comment.

11 MR. ZELLER: That's all.

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you
13 very much Lou.

14 (Applause.)

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: And Mary Olson.

16 MS. OLSON: My name is Mary Olson. I'm
17 the Southeast Regional Coordinator for Nuclear
18 Information Resource Service, and I am so thrilled
19 that this room is so full, and I know we have diverse
20 views. But it's so important in our country that we
21 have the full discussion.

22 Every day of my life, high-level
23 radioactive waste has been generated, and every ten
24 years of my life there has been a major reactor
25 accident which took that which was fuel and rendered

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1 it to that which must be called waste, and quite
2 frankly, we have to add to this Generic Environmental
3 Impact Statement the consideration of all phases of
4 this material, not only those that are assemblies in
5 pools or in casks.

6 So that said, I'm wanting to just back up
7 for a moment and say that Nuclear Information Resource
8 Service will be filing organizational comments in
9 writing. So I am joining the dialogue tonight, mostly
10 on behalf of myself as an individual, but in resonance
11 with people that I work with all over this United
12 States, and with so many of my friends who are here
13 tonight who have come out, and I thank them for that.

14 So this radioactive waste has been made
15 every day of my life. We have nothing to do with it
16 except for letting it pile up. It's piling up where
17 it was made, and if you move it, it's just going to
18 pile up there too. That is all we have for an answer
19 right now.

20 In my childhood, I heard about nuclear
21 madness. Maybe it was mutually assured destruction
22 madness, or maybe it was Helen Caldicott having the
23 courage to stand up ahead of many of us and say making
24 this waste on a daily basis that we don't know what to
25 do with is madness.

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1 But here I am in the fifth decade of my
2 life, and I'm here to celebrate some sanity. I can't
3 call it nuclear sanity, because that's an oxymoron for
4 me. But I'm going to name a few names and then I'll
5 be done.

6 But we have a federal judge, a panel of
7 three guys, who said "I don't buy this scam." That's
8 why we're here tonight. He said I don't buy this
9 scam, and then Fukushima happened and he said now I
10 really don't know that we have a solution, so I'm
11 vacating the Rule, thank you very much.

12 Sanity, wow. We have a President who said
13 that dump's no good, and had the courage, unlike
14 previous presidents, to say Yucca Mountain's off the
15 table. Amazing. A geological level event from the
16 White House. You have a Senate Majority Leader who's
17 sticking up for democracy. The people of Nevada don't
18 want that waste.

19 We have a Prime Minister who was in charge
20 when the tsunami and earthquake and tsunami hit, and
21 he's now brave enough to stand up as Prime Minister
22 can and say "nuclear is not the answer. We have to
23 phase it out."

24 We have Prime Minister Merkel, who said
25 the same thing. By 2022, Germany will be nuclear

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1 free. Finally, we have former NRC Chair Greg Jaczko,
2 someone I've worked with in various capacities for
3 many years, who now has the courage and the sanity to
4 stand up and agree with me, and many of us in this
5 room, that the only solution for radioactive waste is
6 to stop making any more of it, and that darn little
7 vacation that your rule has should become a nice,
8 permanent little chalet, and no more nuclear licenses.

9 Thank you.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

11 Thank you, Mary.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Next, we're going to
14 hear from Jeff Archie and then Jeff Merrifield, and
15 then we're going to go to Don Safer and Steve Nesbit
16 and Susan Corbett. Go ahead, Jeff.

17 MR. ARCHIE: Good evening. My name is
18 Jeff Archie and I'm Senior Vice President and Chief
19 Nuclear Officer for South Carolina Electric and Gas.
20 South Carolina Electric and Gas provides service to
21 659,000 electric customers in South Carolina covering
22 25 counties.

23 I appreciate the opportunity to provide
24 comments this evening on the draft Waste Confidence
25 and GEIS. I also want to commend the NRC's efforts to

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1 encourage and engage the public through a number of
2 public meetings and other venues.

3 Over my 30 plus years in the nuclear
4 industry, I've witnessed the NRC's efforts to ensure
5 public engagement and transparency, and this meeting
6 is yet another example of that commitment.

7 In my role as chief nuclear officer, I'm
8 accountable for oversight of our current nuclear
9 operations, as well as supporting oversight of our new
10 nuclear construction activities. South Carolina
11 Electric and Gas owns and operates the V.C. Summer
12 Unit 1 Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville, South
13 Carolina, which is located approximately 30 miles
14 north of Columbia, the state's capitol.

15 This plant has operated safely for 30
16 years, providing emission-free electric power to
17 customers in our service territory. Since bringing
18 V.C. Summer Unit 1 online in 1984, we have
19 demonstrated the ability to store used fuel safely in
20 our wet fuel storage pool located onsite.

21 We have extremely competent, well-
22 qualified individuals that provide oversight of fuel-
23 related activities, and we have not had any events
24 that have challenged the safety of the public or our
25 employees.

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1 We are currently building an integrated
2 spent fuel storage installation that will in the
3 future allow fuel to be transported from our wet spent
4 fuel storage location to a dry storage location when
5 wet storage capacity is exhausted.

6 We have benchmarked extensively with other
7 utilities in the U.S. to ensure we benefit from the
8 knowledge gained by organizations that have
9 implemented dry spent fuel storage successfully for
10 many, many years.

11 The demonstration of safe nuclear plant
12 operation and spent fuel management at V.C. Summer has
13 been a part of the foundation for the strong public
14 support we have received over the years. I'm
15 especially proud of the fact that a recent survey
16 commissioned by the Nuclear Energy Institute, and
17 conducted by Visconi (ph) Research Incorporated, show
18 that 90 percent of our neighbors that live within the
19 ten-mile radius of the plant had favorable impressions
20 of the plant and how it is operated.

21 Our ability to ensure and demonstrate
22 excellence in plant operation was one of the primary
23 drivers in our decision to build two new Westinghouse
24 AP-1000s adjacent to our existing Unit 1 plant. These
25 reactors, V.C. Summer Units 2 and 3, received a

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1 combined operating and construction license from the
2 NRC in March of 2012.

3 We expect to bring Unit 2 online in late
4 2017 or first quarter 2018, and we are well on our way
5 to achieving that goal. Construction activities for
6 V.C. Summer Units 2 and 3 have gone very well, with a
7 number of significant milestones achieved to date.

8 Recently, we completed the foundation
9 preps and required rebar installations for both units,
10 and completed an installation of the first nuclear
11 concrete for both units, having finished the concrete
12 pour for Unit 3 just this morning.

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: And Jeff, could you
14 finish up for us please?

15 MR. ARCHIE: Sure. The Unit 3 concrete
16 pour was a continuous pour lasting approximately 43
17 hours, with the placement of approximately 7,000 cubic
18 yards of concrete. Safe, reliable electric generation
19 is a high priority for our customers in South
20 Carolina.

21 Industry currently located in our state,
22 as well as industry considering locating in our state,
23 need to have confidence that not only we can satisfy
24 their energy needs today, but we are also committed to
25 having economical baseload energy generation to meet

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1 their long-term needs in the future.

2 The proposed Waste Confidence Rule and
3 Generic Environmental Impact Statement support the
4 efforts of our company to deliver safe, reliable, and
5 emission-free power to our customers, long into the
6 future.

7 It will also support efforts by other
8 utilities that are working to license new reactors to
9 support their strategic objectives. We support the
10 NRC's efforts this evening, and we support the agency
11 moving forward with the proposed Waste Confidence Rule
12 and Generic Impact Statement.

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
14 Thank you very much, Jeff.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: This is Jeff
17 Merrifield.

18 MR. MERRIFIELD: Thank you Chip and the
19 NRC staff. My name is Jeff Merrifield. I'm a
20 resident of Davidson, North Carolina, where I live
21 with my wife and three children within a ten-mile
22 emergency planning zone of Duke McGuire Nuclear
23 Station.

24 Tonight, I'm speaking as a former
25 Commissioner of the NRC, having served from October of

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1 1998 through June of 2007. During that time, I
2 visited all 104 operating nuclear installations in the
3 U.S., and over half of the world's 440 operating
4 nuclear facilities.

5 I'm currently employed by CB&I, which is
6 an EPC company located in Charlotte. It is in the
7 process of building eight nuclear units in the U.S.
8 and in China. However, my remarks this evening
9 reflect my personal views.

10 As an NRC Commissioner, I clearly saw that
11 U.S. nuclear power plant operators took used fuel very
12 seriously. Whether it's stored in a pool or in a dry
13 canister, that fuel receives the highest level of
14 attention to ensure its long-term safety and security.

15 As a result of 9/11 and Fukushima, the
16 nuclear industry has taken a series of measures to
17 enhance the safety of these facilities. In my view,
18 these efforts have reinforced the high level of
19 assurance that this fuel can be safely managed, onsite
20 or off, well after the lifetime of a nuclear plant.

21 I had the opportunity to visit Yucca
22 Mountain in Nevada twice, as well as the highly
23 successful Waste Isolation Pilot Project, otherwise
24 known as WIPP, which is a Department of Energy
25 facility 2,500 feet underground in New Mexico, in a

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1 salt dome currently being used to store high-activity
2 transuranic nuclear waste.

3 All the information I received regarding
4 Yucca Mountain as a commissioner led me to the
5 conclusion that it is an appropriate and safe facility
6 to permanently dispose of used fuel. While the
7 political process in Washington has delayed the NRC
8 staff from filing its final safety report, I am highly
9 confident that the NRC will eventually validate the
10 safety of Yucca Mountain, and allow DOE to meet its
11 statutory responsibility to provide a permanent used
12 fuel storage facility.

13 Further, the demonstrated success of the
14 WIPP facility strongly underscores the ability of our
15 nation to identify, permit and operate a high-level
16 waste facility to address the long-term management of
17 used fuel, irrespective of Yucca Mountain.

18 I also believe that temporary, away-from-
19 reactor storage can be successfully utilized as an
20 interim solution for used fuel. In February of 2006,
21 the NRC issued a license to build a private fuel
22 storage facility in Utah, which was the interim dry
23 storage site for 44,000 metric tons of used fuel, 50
24 miles outside of Salt Lake City.

25 While PFS did not move forward, this

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1 licensing process clearly showed the ability of the
2 NRC to review and approve such a site, and has
3 prompted a number of communities in our country to
4 consider volunteering to host a similar facility in
5 the future.

6 The NRC and its staff should be
7 congratulated for addressing these issues in a generic
8 manner, rather than using a site-specific methodology.

9 This approach to addressing the Waste Confidence
10 decision is consistent with the NRC's responsibility
11 to carry out its mission thoroughly and efficiently.

12 It is also consistent with the NRC's
13 principles of good regulation, which state "Where
14 several effective alternatives are available, the
15 option which minimizes the use of resources should be
16 adopted."

17 In closing, I'd say three things. First,
18 I believe the basis for the draft Waste Confidence
19 Rule is as valid today as the time when I was a
20 Commissioner, and I also believe is consistent with
21 the draft Environmental Impact Statement of which we
22 discussed tonight.

23 Second, our nation should meet its legal
24 obligation to take permanent responsibility for used
25 fuel by completing the licensing and construction of

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1 Yucca Mountain. Third and finally, nuclear power is a
2 safe, carbon-free and reliable form of energy that
3 provides the foundation for our nation's electric
4 grid.

5 As expected in the Atomic Energy Act, the
6 NRC should efficiently provide for the continuing
7 licensing of a safe and proven technology. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Jeff, and
10 we're going to hear from Don Safer next.

11 MR. SAFER: I didn't hear that? What?

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: I wouldn't worry about
13 it. I'd just go ahead and --

14 MR. SAFER: I'm Don Safer. I'm from
15 Nashville, Tennessee. I'm Board Chairman of the
16 Tennessee Environmental Council. I thought this topic
17 was important enough to drive from Nashville and
18 address the assembled, and I'm glad to see such a big
19 crowd as well.

20 I want to start by dedicating my words to
21 the victims of this energy, this nuclear power and
22 nuclear weapons, that of the past, the present, and
23 the future. This is a technology that kills, maims,
24 and creates birth defects. Those are the facts.

25 We have a responsibility to the future.

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1 That's why we're here tonight. All of us agree that
2 this waste must be safely protected from the
3 atmosphere, from the biosphere, basically forever.
4 This is a very serious proposition.

5 The draft GEIS is completely inadequate,
6 all 585 pages of it. It needs to be started over.
7 It's full of questionable assumptions that go from
8 questionable to not even beginning to be credible. It
9 does not satisfy the Nuclear Waste Policy Act or the
10 federal court order.

11 It took a federal court order to throw out
12 this rule and start this process, because the NRC
13 would not do it itself, and this document is more of
14 the same stuff.

15 One of most tenuous assumptions is 100
16 percent success at keeping this waste contained for
17 the centuries, for the ions, for the million years
18 that it needs to be contained. These assumptions have
19 proven to be false at Chernobyl and Fukushima. We
20 need to stop making this waste. We need to deal with
21 the 70,000 metric tons already made.

22 In the GEIS, this draft, it says it's a
23 potential environmental -- it analyzes potential
24 environmental impacts that could occur as a result of
25 the continued storage of spent nuclear fuel. I don't

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1 see that in here. I see a whitewash.

2 I see the murdering of logic in the
3 assumptions, that the storage of this fuel, the
4 institutional control, the canisters being replaced
5 every hundred years, the independent spent fuel
6 storage installations, the dry transfer system. All
7 of that stuff going on forever? Really?

8 The Roman Empire would have had to
9 maintain that level of control, if they had made this
10 type of waste. That's not going to happen. I'm
11 sorry. Human history does not support it. The, and
12 just moving -- this whole probabilistic risk
13 mitigation and assessment, it's just mumbo-jumbo,
14 mangling of logic to make it seem that the risk on
15 paper is small, and it just does not do that.

16 Just in conclusion -- I assume I'm out of
17 time -- while it is true that paper will block alpha
18 radiation, the reams of paper being used in this
19 bureaucratic process will not enhance public safety.

20 I'm sure the Japanese went through this
21 whole process, something very similar. Look at how
22 it's protecting the people and the biota in the
23 Pacific Ocean.

24 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
25 Thank you very much, Don.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Next we're
3 going to hear from Steve Nesbit.

4 MR. NESBIT: Good evening. My name's
5 Steve Nesbit, and I'm the Director of Nuclear Policy
6 for Duke Energy. We operate 11 nuclear power reactors
7 in North and South Carolina, and we oversee a recently
8 shutdown nuclear power plant in Florida.

9 In addition, we're applying for combined
10 construction and operating licenses for new nuclear
11 power plants in South Carolina and Florida. First,
12 let me thank you for the opportunity to provide
13 comments on the draft Waste Confidence EIS and
14 Proposed Rule.

15 It's a very important rulemaking on the
16 part of the NRC. I appreciate the extent to which the
17 NRC has gone to gather public input on it. Thank you
18 for holding one of your public meetings in Charlotte,
19 which is the center of a large and growing hub of
20 energy-related industry and education here in the
21 southeast. Nuclear power is an essential part of the
22 energy mix in this region.

23 Second, we endorse the proposed Waste
24 Confidence Rule. The NRC properly concludes that
25 reactor operators can safely store used fuel after

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1 shutting down, until the federal government carries
2 out its responsibility to dispose of the material.

3 The nuclear industry in general and Duke
4 Energy in particular have extensive operational
5 experience that supports this conclusion. The history
6 of used fuel storage goes back to the beginning of the
7 nuclear enterprise in the 1940's, and there has never
8 been an instance in which a member of the public was
9 harmed by used fuel storage.

10 Duke Energy began its nuclear power plant
11 operations more than 40 years ago. Since that time,
12 we've safely stored used fuel in spent fuel pools, as
13 well as in dry storage facilities. In addition, we
14 safely transported thousands of fuel assemblies
15 between reactor sites.

16 At no time have these activities resulted
17 in harm to the public or significant adverse
18 environmental impacts. The NRC performed a thorough
19 and extensive evaluation of projected future impacts
20 from used fuel storage, and found them to be small.
21 We agree with the NRC's conclusion.

22 I'd like to take the opportunity into say
23 a couple of things about how we store used fuel.
24 Immediately after discharge from the reactor, the fuel
25 is stored in large pools filled with hundreds of

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1 gallons of water. The pools are robust concrete
2 structures, with stainless steel liners.

3 The water removes decay passively and
4 provides shielding from radiation. We've never had a
5 situation in which we needed to provide emergency
6 makeup water to one of our pools, but we have the
7 equipment, procedures, and training for doing so, if
8 necessary.

9 After years in the pool, the decay heat
10 drops significantly and the fuel is cool enough to be
11 loaded into dry storage. We place the assemblies in
12 steel canisters surrounded by large concrete overpacks
13 for shielding and protection.

14 The dry storage systems are thick and
15 massive, weighing hundreds of thousands of pounds.
16 Completely passive natural circulation of the
17 atmosphere is all that is required to cool the dry
18 storage systems. Both methods of storage, wet and
19 dry, have been proven to be safe through analyses, as
20 well as decades of operating experience.

21 Finally, I must emphasize how important it
22 is the NRC completes this rulemaking in a timely
23 manner. The Court remand of the Waste Confidence Rule
24 led to a suspension of NRC licensing activities.

25 Nuclear power is an important source of

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1 safe, economical carbon emissions-free electricity,
2 now and in the future. Our country needs the 24-7
3 baseload source of electricity. Completing the Waste
4 Confidence rulemaking will allow the NRC to fulfill
5 its obligation to license and oversee nuclear
6 facilities.

7 Thank you again for holding the meeting in
8 Charlotte, and for the opportunity to provide these
9 comments.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
11 Steve.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: We're going to go to
14 Susan, Susan Corbett, if Susan is in the room, and
15 here she comes up. While she's coming up, our next
16 speakers are going to be Charles Utley, Willie Tomlin,
17 Courtney Tampas, and Julius Kerr. This is Susan
18 Corbett.

19 MS. CORBETT: Good evening. Thanks to the
20 NRC for holding these public meetings. My name is
21 Susan Corbett. I am the Chair of the South Carolina
22 Chapter of the Sierra Club. I'm also chair of the
23 National Sierra Club Nuclear-Free Campaign.

24 We are submitting written comments to the
25 NRC. So tonight, I'm going to speak a little more

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1 from my own personal experience. You know, South
2 Carolina is heavily involved in nuclear, from all ends
3 of the spectrum. From fuel enrichment, to
4 manufacturing, to waste disposal.

5 However, we have found that it's not very
6 clean, it's not very safe, and it certainly is not
7 very affordable. South Carolina now has the highest
8 utility rates from Washington, D.C. to Texas.

9 I want to say a little bit about the
10 National Sierra Club Nuclear-Free Campaign. The
11 Sierra Club has been on record for many decades
12 questioning the need for nuclear power.

13 Tomorrow morning on CNN, National Sierra
14 Club Director Michael Brune will be debating the
15 director of Pandora's Promise, to expose the
16 propaganda, the mistruths, half-truths, and lies about
17 the future and the need for the future of nuclear
18 power in our country.

19 In South Carolina, like I said, we're very
20 concerned about nuclear waste. We have seven
21 operating reactors. I don't think any of the fuel at
22 V.C. Summer has left the pool. I don't think there's
23 any dry casks, so that pool has got to be pretty full.

24 We have a low-level site, Barnwell. It's
25 been leaking for decades. It's been migrating

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1 underground, contaminating nearby groundwater and
2 streams. And of course we have the Savannah River
3 site, which is an ongoing problem.

4 I question this idea of a one-size-fits-
5 all impact statement. In South Carolina, we have such
6 a diversity of reactors, with so many different
7 conditions. For example, up at Oconee, which is in
8 the northwestern part of the state, the NRC has
9 determined that there's a safety risk there, because
10 it sits on the edge of a lake that has an earthen dam.

11 If there was an earthquake, and South
12 Carolina is an earthquake-prone state - we just had
13 one the other day actually - that dam would break, and
14 a Fukushima-type event would happen. Oconee would be
15 swamped.

16 So I don't know how you can do a one-size-
17 fits-all when you have so many different reactor sites
18 and things going on.

19 I think it's also problematic to think
20 that communities are going to take spent fuel storage
21 indefinitely. We just had a situation down at the
22 Savannah River site because there was a proposal
23 brought to the Citizens Advisory Board, asking them to
24 sign off on Savannah River site being used as interim
25 storage.

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1 After many months of discussions, the
2 Citizens Advisory Board voted 17 to 6, opposing any
3 spent fuel storage in Savannah River site. So I know
4 I need to go. I would just like to say that we don't
5 think this is a streamlining process. We're afraid
6 this is a steam-rolling process.

7 You cannot cut the public out of these
8 future discussions. That would be a wrong thing to
9 do. We need to be involved in this every step of the
10 way. Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
13 Thank you. Reverend Utley.

14 REVEREND UTLEY: Good evening. Charles
15 Utley from Shell Bluff (ph), Georgia, the Blue Ridge
16 Environmental Defense League, and for my children and
17 my granddaughter, I come before you tonight. As I
18 look at what we're calling this, a G-E-I-S, and I like
19 to take it personally.

20 I say that because I left at home my
21 lovely wife, who just had a total knee replacement.
22 But thank God I didn't ask him for a generic doctor.
23 I didn't ask him to send me to a generic pharmacy, and
24 I didn't ask him to send me to anybody but the best.

25 That's the same way I feel about this

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1 proposal. You're asking the future to live up to
2 something that's going to fit everybody, doesn't
3 matter where they live, who they are, where they come
4 from or where they're going. You and I both know that
5 is impossible.

6 Savannah River site has leaking taking
7 place as I stand. Camp Vogtle shut down last week and
8 it was reported on national television, but locally,
9 they said "Oh, it just shut off." Yet we're going to
10 consider what I would call in kindergarten a pattern
11 to fit all, when you cut one little cookie pattern,
12 and it will fit everybody.

13 My brothers and sisters, it just won't
14 work. Let us deal with the facts and as they are, and
15 what they stand for. You and I both know that our
16 future cannot afford 60 or 160 in one container. I
17 don't think so, and you know it doesn't.

18 So let us be real with ourselves and go
19 back and do what we've been asked to do. Take it away
20 from the table. Redevelop what it is and what we
21 know. You all are smart enough to come up with
22 something better than this. Even our court system
23 realized it, from Washington down, and let us go back
24 and do what we need to do.

25 Bring back something that the public can

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1 take hold to, and because three major things, and I
2 want you to listen to them. One is they leak
3 constantly. They shut down when they have the will or
4 want to, and the cost is astronomical.

5 But let me take that off the table,
6 because the nuke is a way of nuclear welfare. What
7 I'm saying it's not your dollars; it's all of our
8 taxpayers' dollars. When you get to the point where
9 you have to dig in your own pockets, then you'll come
10 up with something better.

11 (off mic) What I'm saying to you tonight,
12 I don't want my 18 month old or that eight month old
13 grandchild of mine to pick up this waste. So let's
14 end it now. I know I've used my time, but I want to
15 make sure you hear me loud and clear. Take it back
16 from where it came from.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you Reverend.
19 Thank you very much. We're going to go to Willie
20 Tomlin here, and then we're going to go to Courtney.
21 Courtney. Oh, here's Willie, and then we'll go to
22 Courtney, and then Julius. This is Willie Tomlin.

23 MR. TOMLIN: (off mic) My name is Willie
24 Tomlin and I'm from Georgia as well, Burke County Area
25 Shell Bluff community. I've pastored in Burke County

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1 for the last four years. I try to keep up with what
2 goes on in the southern part of our country. As we
3 all we know, of the 104 reactors there are in the
4 country, 60 of those are from the south.

5 Many of them have been there since the
6 50's, and they are under strain, for the simple reason
7 as you all recognize, that those of us --, that you
8 don't exist long on the planet before change comes.

9 The same thing is true with everything
10 that God has created. Change does come. So
11 therefore, with these aged reactors, we need to come
12 up with a better way, or totally delete the method
13 that we're using to produce electricity.

14 I'm one of those who believe that in this
15 age in which we live, that our technology most
16 definitely can exceed something that we came up with
17 two centuries ago.

18 I am one of those who believe that if we
19 would put our minds to it, give some dedication to it,
20 that we will not only change our method of producing
21 electricity for the citizens of this country, give
22 some consideration to the health and hazard that, as
23 Reverend Utley has mentioned, our grandchildren and
24 our great-grandchildren are potentially going to have
25 to deal with.

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1 Whatever method we come up with is a
2 threat to the future generation, particularly if it
3 pertains to -- particularly if it pertains to nuclear.

4 I will simply -- my last statement is this, and that
5 is I wish we would sincerely give some consideration
6 to the generations to come, and not so much based on
7 what the technology is now.

8 Because when the next generation comes,
9 they will most definitely have other ideas and other
10 methods, just as we have come from the kerosene
11 lanterns to where we are now. We have no idea what
12 method the next generation will do.

13 So how are we going to assume that we can
14 contain something that has a life of 100,000, 200,000,
15 300,000 years? To God be the glory.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Willie.
18 Courtney.

19 MS. TAMPAS: Hello. My name is Courtney
20 Tampas, and I'm a probabilistic safety assessment
21 engineer at V.C. Summer Nuclear Station, operated by
22 South Carolina Electric and Gas. My group is
23 responsible for ensuring that the plant operates in a
24 safe configuration at all times, using a mathematical
25 model that accurately reflects the physical

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1 configuration of the plant.

2 The focus of nuclear power is always on
3 protecting the health and safety of the public, and
4 the safety of our employees. Our safety culture is
5 like our personality, and thinking safety first is
6 just how we are wired to respond.

7 Every nuclear plant has subject matter
8 experts in every area, to ensure that the choices and
9 changes we make always reflect our commitment to
10 safety. My group has over 100 years of combined
11 expertise in nuclear technology.

12 Nuclear is also a thriving industry. New
13 graduates are entering the nuclear industry every
14 year, and V.C. Summer Unit 1, 35 percent of our staff
15 has been in the industry for less than five years. We
16 have all committed to making nuclear energy a safe and
17 abundant source of energy for the public, because in
18 energy, diversity is the key.

19 Nuclear is important to the energy
20 security of the United States. I am personally
21 passionate about my commitment to the nuclear
22 industry. My goal is to educate. I want you to know
23 my views, know all of the facts and make informed
24 decisions regarding nuclear power.

25 I have a great sense of pride for my

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1 projects at V.C. Summer Units 2 and 3, and for this
2 reawakening of nuclear power. I encourage everyone in
3 the audience to educate themselves on the benefits and
4 challenges of nuclear power, along with other green
5 technologies, and make the decision for themselves.

6 I believe that the U.S. nuclear facilities
7 will continue to safely handle and store used nuclear
8 fuel for the time frames discussed in the draft
9 Environmental Impact Statement.

10 I also believe that the NRC should
11 complete their review of the Yucca Mountain
12 repository. Both of these are solutions that can be
13 used to ensure the used fuel management security of
14 the nuclear industry. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you
17 Courtney, and this is Julius, and after Julius, we're
18 going to go to Robert Howarth and Bill Herwig and Ryan
19 Brookhart. This is Julius.

20 MR. KERR: My name is Julius Kerr. I'm
21 from Alamance County, North Carolina, a native born in
22 Raleigh. I'm also a volunteer for BREDL and a member
23 of the new chapter, Neighborhood Environment Watch.

24 I live about 30 miles from Shearon Harris
25 Nuclear Plant. My wife of 43 years, my two children,

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1 my four grandchildren, and my newborn great grandson
2 also live within 30 miles of Shearon Harris.

3 That's why I'm here today. I'm protecting
4 my family and their loved ones. That's what fathers
5 do. I'm also a United States Air Force disabled
6 veteran. Even though you don't make it easy, I get to
7 these meetings that are so far removed from the
8 problem.

9 I have planned for weeks to be here to do
10 this. It's hard for me to drive here and to stand up
11 here and speak out against nuclear hazards. But I do
12 it. I must do it. I'm protecting my home, my state,
13 and my country. That's what veterans do.

14 Yes, it's hard for me to get to the
15 meetings, but I'm on a mission. I want you to know
16 that North Carolina citizens do not want Shearon
17 Harris to continue to store dangerous irradiated
18 nuclear fuel in the overcrowded and unprotected
19 cooling pools.

20 How did North Carolina come to provide a
21 home for the four largest overcrowded cooling pools in
22 the country? Why didn't we get to say something about
23 this before it happened? Most people don't even know
24 the danger of these pools. But you do, don't you?

25 It's your responsibility to protect the

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1 public health by transferring this nuclear waste to
2 dry cast storage. You must make it a national
3 security top priority. I have no confidence in your
4 Waste Confidence, and while you're at it, expand the
5 emergency planning zones and include the people.

6 Enlarge the planning zone to 50 miles, not
7 ten miles. We're between those two zones, and we do
8 not feel safe. Finally, stop the secretly moving
9 nuclear waste from here to there. Don't use our
10 highways, rails, and waterways for such dangerous and
11 unnecessary projects.

12 Stop putting the industry's profit and
13 convenience over the safety of the people and the
14 environment. I'm angry about this, but I still pray
15 for you, and I pray that you will do the right thing.

16 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you
19 for being here with us tonight, Julius. Doctor Robert
20 Howarth. Pardon me? Oh, there he is, and then we'll
21 go to Bill. This is Robert Howarth.

22 DR. HOWARTH: Good evening. I am Robert
23 Howarth from Ashville, North Carolina. I am now
24 retired from a career as an electro-optical engineer.
25 I have a degree of Master of Science in Engineering,

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1 and I'm a member of the Western North Carolina
2 Physicians for Social Responsibility, a member of the
3 Union of Concerned Scientists, and a taxpaying citizen
4 of the United States.

5 I previously testified to the Blue Ribbon
6 Commission in January 2012, and in January 2011,
7 regarding proposed reprocessing program for the
8 Savannah River site, and for the draft EIS for William
9 States Lee (ph), respectively.

10 Safe containment for eternity must be the
11 objective of a mission of your containment work. With
12 half-lives for radioactive nuclear waste ranging from
13 30 years for strontium and cesium, to some 24,000
14 years for plutonium-239, and time 'til permissible
15 view and exposure, which is ten times half-life, it
16 follows with those kinds of times that a necessary
17 corollary is the making of toxic nuclear waste must be
18 reduced to zero.

19 In our physical world, we sometimes cannot
20 achieve the ideal, but often we can and do approach it
21 very closely. There are some good uses for nuclear
22 energy; for example, in medicine and in astronautics.

23 But we know that bombs and weapons are not included
24 on the short list. Neither are nuclear power plants.

25 There are better means than these to

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1 provide the needs for life on our shared earth. In
2 achieving self-containment for eternity and satisfying
3 the necessary corollary of making zero toxic nuclear
4 waste, we also can greatly reduce and in effect, cap
5 the magnitude of safe storage space needed.

6 This will save money, helping alleviate
7 our national debt burden, as well as requiring less
8 off limits-posted land. I encourage you at NRC to
9 make hardened onsite storage a significant component
10 of your recommendations.

11 Not only does HOSS eliminate the costs of
12 transit and the dangers to public health from
13 inevitable accidents, spills, leaks, fires on our
14 highways, but it keeps the toxic waste where it
15 already is, already posted in off limits secured
16 sites.

17 These sites will be with us as long -- for
18 a long time, even after nuclear power generation is
19 phased out.

20 I urge you at NRC to bear in mind and to
21 emphasize the merit of satisfying our necessary
22 corollary and HOSS, informing your proposals for
23 nuclear waste containment and storage. Our long-term
24 health and sustainability depends on it. Thank you
25 for your attention.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
3 Thank you very much. Bill?

4 MR. HERWIG: Good evening. My name is
5 Bill Herwig. I'm the supervisor of Nuclear Design and
6 Analysis at the V.C. Summer Nuclear Station, which is
7 operated by the South Carolina Electric and Gas
8 Company. My group is responsible for the safe
9 handling and storage of new and used nuclear fuel.

10 I appreciate the opportunity to provide
11 input to the important topic of used fuel management.

12 We currently safely store our used fuel assemblies in
13 our used fuel storage pool. We have taken steps to
14 assure the long-term safety of used fuel stored in our
15 pool.

16 In 2003, we replaced all of the storage
17 racks with an improved neutron absorber. We also have
18 an ongoing surveillance program, to monitor the long-
19 term performance of this material during the wet
20 storage of our used fuel.

21 Summer Unit 1 is currently making the
22 transition to dry fuel storage. By being one of
23 several nuclear plants that have yet to implement dry
24 fuel storage, we have been able to take advantage of
25 the successful operating experience of other plants

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1 with many years of dry storage experience.

2 We have also been able to take advantage
3 of technical advances in the design and processing of
4 fuel storage systems, and will implement a state-of-
5 the-art dry storage system. Our current plan is to
6 load our first dry storage systems in 2015.

7 I firmly believe that we will continue to
8 safely handle and store used fuel in the wet and dry
9 configurations, in the three time frames mentioned in
10 the draft EIS. However, I also firmly believe that
11 the NRC should complete the review of the Yucca
12 Mountain license application submitted by the
13 Department of Energy.

14 Pending a positive review of the
15 application, construction and operation of the Yucca
16 Mountain facility should proceed as a national
17 priority, in accordance with the Waste Policy Act.
18 There is a safe and effective solution to used fuel
19 management. We just need to implement it. Thank you
20 for your time, and have a good evening.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you Bill.
23 Ryan, Ryan Brookhart, and then we'll go to Thomas
24 Rodack.

25 MR. BROOKHART: Good evening. My name's

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1 Ryan Brookhart, and although I am a member of the
2 nuclear industry, I am speaking here this evening on
3 my own opinions basically, as a father, a veteran,
4 American Nuclear Society member, all those things that
5 lots of other people have opposite opinions that I
6 might have.

7 So again, I thank the NRC for running such
8 an open forum, where we can have the free exchange of
9 ideas, and I would encourage everyone, I think has
10 been mentioned a couple of times here, to research all
11 of the facts that you hear tonight, both in support of
12 the ruling and against the ruling.

13 So I encourage the NRC to complete the
14 Waste Confidence EIS rulemaking. This is an important
15 part of our future for nuclear power, and as I said,
16 I'm a father and a veteran, and like the other
17 gentleman here and those in the crowd, as a veteran
18 I'm concerned about the future of the country. I'm
19 concerned about the future for my children as well.

20 But without an environmentally clean
21 economical method to produce electricity, nuclear
22 power, I fear that they will be living in caves, with
23 nothing to do. So that's kind of my position on
24 nuclear power. I think it's a clean method for the
25 production of energy for the future.

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1 The NRC is reviewing this Waste Confidence
2 Rule, and I again encourage them to complete the
3 rulemaking, to allow them to resume issuing licenses
4 and continuing to process installations.

5 Some of the specifics that you wanted
6 comments on, as far as time line for repository
7 availability, I don't believe that there should be
8 reference to a repository made in the Rule, because
9 that will unintentionally tie us to that as part of
10 the waste solution for perpetuity.

11 There are other methods for taking care of
12 nuclear waste other than spent fuel through
13 reprocessing, through other utilizations and
14 mentioning it in the Rule will only hamper those
15 developments in the future.

16 Second, information from the Generic
17 Environmental Impact Statement should be referenced
18 but not repeated in the text of the Rule. Again,
19 those crossing of references in federal regulations
20 only makes it more complicated for people to
21 understand what's really going on.

22 Third, streamlining of clarity is always
23 an improvement to any regulation. So on the third
24 question of whether you should streamline the text in
25 the ruling, I certainly encourage you to do that.

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1 Again, for the reasons stated before, government
2 regulations are complicated enough to understand. If
3 you can do anything to streamline it, I would
4 encourage it.

5 Again, I would support or would encourage
6 the NRC to move towards reprocessing, and in the
7 interim, a long-term storage facility is certainly an
8 advantage to the nation for today and for the future.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Ryan.
12 Thank you very much. Next we're going to hear from
13 Thomas Rodack, and then we're going to go to Sally
14 Kneidel, Ken Kneidel, Amanda Lang, and Adam Howell.
15 This is Thomas.

16 MR. RODACK: Hi. I'm Tom Rodack, Director
17 of Licensing and Engineering Programs in the Nuclear
18 Fuel Organization at Westinghouse Electric Company.
19 Westinghouse has provided products and services and
20 technology to the nuclear industry since they provided
21 the first commercial reactor in the United States in
22 1957.

23 Today, Westinghouse is working here in the
24 southeast to build four of our advanced AP-1000
25 nuclear reactors. We're also building four more in

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1 China. Today, in Columbia, South Carolina, our
2 nuclear fuel factory is building fuel that our
3 customers are using, to generate ten percent of this
4 nation's electricity safely, reliably, and carbon-
5 free.

6 I have worked my entire career in the
7 nuclear industry on the design, the licensing and the
8 manufacturing of nuclear fuel. I can personally
9 attest to the high standards, the technical rigor, and
10 the overriding commitment to safety in the U.S.
11 nuclear industry.

12 I want to thank the NRC for the
13 opportunity tonight to provide these comments. I
14 commend the NRC on the transparency of this rulemaking
15 process, and I applaud your scheduling of these
16 meetings around the country to get stakeholder
17 feedback.

18 I'll make my remarks short and to the
19 point. First, it makes sense to evaluate generic
20 issues on a generic basis. It's the most efficient
21 use of our regulatory resources and we should use
22 those resources efficiently.

23 Second, the draft Generic Environmental
24 Impact Statement is a comprehensive assessment of the
25 impact of the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel.

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1 It's based on reasonable assumptions and it's based
2 on current technology.

3 Finally, the draft Generic Environmental
4 Impact Statement provides a sound basis, both
5 technically and on a regulatory framework, for the
6 conclusion that it's technically feasible to store
7 spent fuel on an indefinite long-term basis, safely
8 and securely.

9 I urge the NRC to continue on a priority
10 basis with this rulemaking process. There are no
11 technical barriers to the safe, secure, long-term
12 storage of spent nuclear fuel. Thank you again for
13 the opportunity to make these comments.

14 (Applause.)

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks Tom. Thank
16 you. How about Sally, Sally Kneidel, and then we're
17 going to go to Ken Kneidel. Here's Sally coming up.

18 MS. KNEIDEL: Thank you for having this
19 hearing. I am Sally Kneidel. I'm a biologist. I'm
20 from Charlotte. I'm a volunteer with Greenpeace and
21 NC WARN. Just last night in Charlotte, we had a big
22 solar meeting. I really wish that's where we were
23 headed. I think that is where we're headed. But
24 tonight, we're talking about nuclear.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MS. KNEIDEL: I was excited for a moment
2 when I heard that the NRC had been ordered to set
3 aside its Waste Confidence policy and assess the
4 environmental impacts of nuclear waste. But after
5 reading through the draft of the new policy, my
6 excitement quickly evaporated.

7 I'm a realist. I've spoken in a lot of
8 energy hearings, and one thing I've learned is that
9 government agencies and commissions that are supposed
10 to be protecting the public are generally controlled
11 by the corporations that they're supposed to be
12 regulating.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. KNEIDEL: Along those lines, the NRC
15 has the reputation of looking out for the interests of
16 the nuclear industry. Reading about your current
17 proposal confirms to me that your goal is to ensure the
18 future of nuclear energy, an industry that should have
19 no future.

20 I see no hint that you had any intention
21 of trying to protect the public, now or in the future.

22 What makes me think that, that you're protecting the
23 nuclear industry? Your claim that spent fuel can be
24 managed at reactor sites or other above-ground storage
25 facilities forever; your failure to address the

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1 vulnerability of these spent fuel pools from
2 catastrophic fire caused by an attack; your
3 declaration that the impacts of pool leaks will be
4 insignificant; your plan to transfer radioactive spent
5 fuel to new storage casks every hundred years forever.

6 These and many other absurdities are based
7 on the assumption that government institutions will
8 function safely for hundreds of years, an assertion
9 that is inconsistent with human history, as others
10 have said already tonight, and inconsistent with the
11 NRC's own regulations.

12 Your policy is also inconsistent with the
13 mandate of the NWPA that aboveground storage is
14 acceptable only on an interim basis. So I'm asking
15 you, members of the NRC, to behave as though you
16 actually are acting on behalf of public safety, and
17 stop protecting corporations that are profiting from
18 nuclear energy.

19 I'm asking you to behave as though we
20 still have a government that serves people, not
21 corporations. You still have some power to make that
22 a reality, in perhaps the most dangerous industry
23 there is. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

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1 Thank you, Sally. This is Ken, Ken Kneidel.

2 MR. KNEIDEL: I'm Ken Kneidel. I read your
3 report and I admire the effort you put forth to look
4 at everything from tornados to terrorism, but I got
5 hung up on time. And being an ex-teacher, I produced
6 a visual aid here to explain what I'm concerned about.

7 What I have here are some fishing lines, and I took
8 the first six inches here and I measured off the time
9 equivalent to the first -- 2,000 years from 0 A.D. up
10 here to the present. So, if you let 2,000 years be
11 six inches, it becomes a math problem just to fix
12 other points along the line.

13 The part I marked off in black here which
14 you probably can barely see is the industrial
15 revolution, roughly about from 1850 up to the present.

16 And there's a little red band here at the end that
17 you might not be able to see. That's out to the year
18 2100 at the end of the century.

19 When I'm thinking about time, that's the
20 time I'm mainly thinking about, you know, what's going
21 to happen just by the end of this century. And
22 scientists predict not a lot of good things. In
23 addition to climate change, we may lose a quarter to
24 half the world's species; we're going to lose our
25 fisheries; our water tables are threatened. Add

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1 another half an inch if you want to extend time a
2 little bit. We're going to run out of oil, we're
3 going to run out of coal, and we're going to run out
4 of natural gas.

5 The point is, scientists right now have
6 not a very clear idea of what the world is going to
7 look like in just 100 years, and you're saying you
8 know what the world is going to look like 250,000
9 years from now, a place where can store radioactive
10 waste safely. To me, that's just ludicrous.

11 To help you get a handle on the length of
12 time that we're talking about here now, Sally is going
13 to pull out this fishing line. And it doesn't take
14 long until she gets just to 6 feet. And there it is,
15 6 feet. That represents the half-life of plutonium-
16 239. That's out 24,000 years on this scale.

17 Don't be too excited about that being a
18 short distance because one half-life isn't what we
19 need to worry about. We need to worry about several
20 half-lives when we're storing these wastes.

21 Now she's going out and you're going to
22 have to move pretty quickly here. She's going out to
23 technetium-99, which has a half-life of 210,000 years,
24 she's going to go out 53 feet. And she's not quite
25 there yet. Go, Sally. If she were to continue to do

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1 tin-126 she'd go out 58 feet; selenium-79, 82 feet;
2 zirconium-93, 375 feet; neptunium-237, 500 feet;
3 cesium-135, 575 feet; palladium-107, 1,625 feet; and
4 iodine-129, 3,925 feet. That's three quarters of a
5 mile.

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: I think we're losing
7 Sally back there.

8 MR. KNEIDEL: Hmm?

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: We're losing Sally.

10 MR. KNEIDEL: Yes, right. Well, we'll
11 lose more than that. How can you believe we can store
12 waste that long with the technology we have today?
13 That's just absolutely ridiculous. There'll be
14 several ice ages during the length of this time.

15 Over 500 million species have evolved and
16 gone extinct on earth and none have left a burden like
17 this for the species that followed. I beg you to put
18 aside the profit that can be made from building more
19 nuclear facilities and think more carefully of the
20 real risk involved in the legacy that we'll leave
21 behind.

22 This plan definitely makes sense when I
23 read that Duke Energy, for example, is guaranteed a
24 profit greater than 10 percent on all its construction
25 projects. We should be directing our money,

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1 resources, and research towards developing sun, wind,
2 and geothermal technology.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: And, Ken, could I ask
4 you to just finish.

5 MR. KNEIDEL: One more sentence.

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay.

7 MR. KNEIDEL: They're clean, they'll never
8 run out, and they won't leave a shameful legacy for
9 our descendants.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Amanda.
12 This is Amanda Lang, and then we're going to go to
13 Adam Howell, Elaine Cooper, and George Gunn. Go
14 ahead, Amanda.

15 MS. LANG: Good evening. I'm Amanda Lang,
16 and I'm a recent graduate of the University of
17 Wisconsin-Madison with a nuclear engineering degree,
18 and I am currently a nuclear core designer for Duke
19 Energy and a member of NAYGN, but the views expressed
20 here are my personal opinion.

21 As someone who is concerned about the
22 environment, I am a strong supporter of nuclear
23 energy. In fact, this is the reason I became a
24 nuclear engineer. Nuclear energy is safe, it's
25 reliable, and it does not emit greenhouse gases during

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1 operation.

2 An advantage of nuclear energy over other
3 sources of electricity generation is the concentrated
4 manner of its waste. Nuclear waste is a solid, and
5 it's very compact, unlike gases, ash, particulate
6 matter, or toxic chemicals from solar panel
7 production. This waste or used fuel accumulated over
8 50 years of nuclear operation in the U.S. can fit in
9 the area of one football field filled to a height of
10 20 feet. I feel much more confident handling this
11 waste than I would other types.

12 In addition to being compact, another
13 advantage of nuclear waste is the fact that it's not
14 really waste. We can use our spent fuel to generate
15 more energy, and in the process reduce the amount of
16 waste as in the volume, and also the longevity of that
17 waste.

18 Right now, however, we are considering
19 whether or not we feel confident that nuclear waste
20 can be handled at our reactor sites. The answer is
21 yes. It has been done for decades, and we have the
22 technical expertise to handle our used nuclear fuel.

23 The NRC has considered a variety of
24 topics, everything from land use, to socioeconomics,
25 to environmental justice, to the effect on various

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1 species, to cultural resource impacts, and their
2 conclusion was storing of used nuclear fuel has a low
3 environmental impact.

4 Whether in pools or dry casks, with proper
5 maintenance and monitoring there's no reason that used
6 nuclear fuel cannot be stored onsite indefinitely.

7 In the nuclear industry, the safety and
8 health of the public and the environment are first and
9 foremost in the minds of employees like myself, and I
10 take that very seriously. Thank you for your time.

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Amanda.
14 This is Adam, Adam Howell.

15 MR. HOWELL: Howdy. I would like to thank
16 the panel and those in attendance for their time and
17 the opportunity to address this public meeting.

18 I'm Adam Howell, a design engineer for
19 AREVA and the Chair of my local chapter of North
20 American Young Generation of Nuclear, or NAYGN. I
21 represent just one chapter of 110, encompassing 10,000
22 young professionals across the U.S., Canada, and
23 Mexico.

24 My background is in nuclear engineering
25 with specialization in energy engineering from Texas

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1 A&M. My studies took this route because of the
2 promise of energy security for our country, the
3 sustainability of the energy source, and the
4 difference I could make in protecting the environment.

5 I support a diverse national energy
6 portfolio, but believe we should use the resources
7 where it makes sense. With respect to energy density,
8 land usage, and air emissions, nuclear power is the
9 best option for baseload power generation.

10 I'm currently working with industry and
11 wouldn't have continued down my career path in the
12 past five years if I thought this was contributing to
13 something that was inherently unsafe and dangerous.

14 I've worked at several plants that were run very well.

15 I've seen plant maintenance outages as well as the
16 day-to-day operations. I've even talked to NRC
17 inspectors who are very thorough operators; worked on
18 several projects throughout my career and have shown
19 that industry has continued to progress.

20 One project recently analyzed used fuel
21 canisters and their storage systems. The casks were
22 much larger than I expected seeing them first hand, on
23 the order of 100 tons, reinforced concrete and steel.

24 These clearly provide the shielding needed to
25 protect the public, as well as providing protection of

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1 the used nuclear fuel from hazards posed by not only
2 Mother Nature, but terrorists. In addition, seeing
3 the studies attempted to breach the cask with
4 everything from rocket sleds to military ordinance, my
5 appreciation of the engineering has only increased.

6 My other project focused on fuel storage
7 and repackaging, both short- and long-term in closed
8 casks in storage facilities. We have the technology
9 available to move, store, dispose, recycle used
10 nuclear fuel. The dry transfer systems operated in
11 France and around the world are quite impressive.

12 Overall, our generation is frustrated by
13 lack of political will to move forward with the
14 technically sound commonsense options for nuclear
15 energy production and used fuel management. We want
16 those who are experts to be making rational, not
17 emotional decisions for our future.

18 I support the conclusion that fuel can be
19 stored without significant environmental impact, and
20 laud the effort of the Commission to complete their
21 analysis to eventually solve these issues, diverse
22 energy solutions for storage and long-term energy
23 planning for nuclear science and technology. I know
24 the young professionals from NAYGN are ready to make
25 progress and innovate throughout their careers to make

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1 this a reality.

2 We were once leaders of nuclear science.
3 I would like my generation to reclaim that title,
4 risk-informed, performance-based rulemaking, not
5 rulemaking based on irrationality, misunderstanding,
6 and political grandstanding. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right, thank you.
9 Thank you, Adam. Elaine, Elaine Cooper, and then
10 we're going to go to George Gunn, Tara Hands, and
11 Kenneth Ashe. This is Elaine.

12 MS. COOPER: Hello, I'm Elaine Cooper with
13 the South Carolina Sierra Club from Columbia, South
14 Carolina. I'm here tonight because I would like to
15 represent many of the hardworking rate payers in South
16 Carolina who could not make the long drive to
17 Charlotte, North Carolina.

18 Recently, I was over doing my civic duty,
19 voting absentee since I am working the polls tomorrow,
20 and lo and behold on the television news on the TV
21 overhead in the room over at the Election Commission
22 meeting, the TV reporter reported tritium leaks over
23 at the nearby Catawba Plant, not far from Charlotte,
24 fact, not emotion. For the first time, I heard
25 several voters, black, white, all walks of life,

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1 expressing their unanimous concern over tritium
2 leaking from the Catawba Plant.

3 Are nuclear power plants safe? No, that's
4 a big no. The Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory
5 voted no to interim storage at SRS. The SRS Citizens
6 Advisory Board reflected the overwhelming concern that
7 once waste was allowed to be stored at SRS, that
8 perhaps SRS would be considered a permanent
9 depository. This decision shocked me. I've never
10 heard this coming from that area, coming from an area
11 where folks depend on SRS, depend on the nuclear
12 industry for their jobs. This spoke volumes,
13 reflecting the public's concern over nuclear waste
14 piling up onsite and its lack of permanent storage.

15 Basically, I have not experienced such an
16 overwhelming concern about the lack of a permanent
17 disposal of radioactive waste ever, compared to the
18 many years that I've been going to these meetings from
19 South Carolina rate payers.

20 Closer to home, V.C. Summer has waste that
21 is an overcrowded -- it's spent fuel pools. Residents
22 who live around V.C. Summer express their extreme
23 concern over the risk to the public from these
24 overcrowded spent fuel pools to me, saying that as I
25 man the booth over at the State Fair. And I think

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1 many of the residents heard this over a period of two
2 weeks over and over, that residents were concerned
3 about spent fuel being piled up in overcrowded spent
4 fuel pools.

5 These aboveground spent pools are not
6 guarded well, and many South Carolina residents are
7 gravely concerned about attacks from terrorists, like
8 a bomb, a plane, or anything that could easily set
9 these aboveground pools on fire.

10 In closing, folks from all walks of life,
11 race, and age, without hesitation signed our petition
12 at the South Carolina Sierra Club booth at the State
13 Fair; all extremely concerned about nuclear spent fuel
14 piling up onsite above ground in spent nuclear pools
15 with no permanent storage. No, South Carolina does
16 not have confidence in waste, the production of it,
17 the piling up of it in nuclear spent fuel pools and
18 the lack of permanent storage. Thanks.

19 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR CAMERON: George. This is
22 George Gunn, and then we go to Tara Hands, and then
23 Kenneth Ashe.

24 MR. GUNN: Good evening. I'm George Gunn.
25 I'm the Licensing Supervisor for Plant Vogtle Units 1

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1 and 2. I've been in nuclear power for almost 30
2 years, and I've had a wide array of exposure
3 everywhere from operations, to training, quality
4 assurance, and now most recently in the licensing.

5 Nuclear energy plays a vital role in
6 meeting our nation's electricity needs. Protecting
7 the environment, preserving the fuel, and technology
8 diversity is a strength of the U.S. electricity
9 system. One hundred nuclear power plants generate
10 nearly 20 percent of our electricity, and in seven
11 states nuclear plants generate more electricity than
12 any other source.

13 The Energy Department projects that the
14 U.S. electricity demand will rise 28 percent by the
15 year 2040 even with very modest economic growth. That
16 means the United States will need hundreds of new
17 power plants of all types to meet increased demand and
18 replace older facilities that are retired. To help
19 close that gap, we're in the process of constructing
20 two new units right now and have them scheduled to go
21 on line in 2017 and 2018.

22 Some of these new power plants will have
23 to be nuclear, like the two new units under
24 construction now in Georgia at Vogtle, or the other
25 three that are also under construction in South

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1 Carolina and Tennessee.

2 Nuclear energy is the only emission-free
3 source of electricity that can be widely expanded.
4 The President has set ambitious goals for reducing
5 carbon dioxide emissions, and the United States simply
6 cannot get there without nuclear energy in the mix.

7 In addition to generating clean air
8 electricity, nuclear plants strengthen state and local
9 economies through jobs, taxes, and direct and
10 secondary spending. A typical nuclear reactor
11 generates \$470 million a year in economic output,
12 including more than \$35 million in total labor income.

13 These figures include both direct output and
14 secondary effects.

15 The secondary effects at the local level
16 include subsequent spending attributable to the
17 presence of the plant and its employees, and plant
18 expenditures filter through the local economy. The
19 spending amounts to approximately \$17 million a year.

20 That just shows that every dollar spent on the
21 average nuclear plant results in the creation of \$1.04
22 in the local community, \$1.18 in the state economy,
23 and \$1.87 in the U.S. economy. The average nuclear
24 plant pays about \$16 million in state and local taxes
25 annually. These tax dollars benefit schools, roads,

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1 and other state and local infrastructure.

2 As a lifelong resident, I was born and
3 raised in the area of the Plant Vogtle, and for many
4 reasons nuclear energy has to be a vital part of our
5 nation's energy plan. We urge the Commission to
6 complete the Waste Confidence rulemaking, and move
7 forward with licensing of renewed, operating licensing
8 for existing plants and new units to come. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
10 George.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: Tara.

13 MS. HANDS: Hello, I'm Tara Hands from
14 Georgia. It took me six hours to get up here, and I
15 assume others came from farther away.

16 I'm personally disappointed that not one
17 out of the five Commissioners could be here to see the
18 faces of some humanity here to get a feeling of what's
19 going on emotionally with people. I would suggest
20 that that happen at the future activities.

21 I'm wondering if some of you have heard
22 that Plant Vogtle, as mentioned on the radio last
23 week, had 75 violations. Raise your hand if you knew
24 that. Another thing I'm wondering if you know, that
25 the butterfly genes have been mutated in Fukushima by

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1 radiation. How many know that the butterflies are now
2 deformed? Have you heard that?

3 Okay. Another thing to raise your hand
4 on: September 12th of last year the Reactor 4 in
5 Fukushima has sunk 31 inches in the ground. How many
6 have heard that? Thank you.

7 I personally feel that the media and NRC
8 and energy plants are keeping the public in the dark.
9 We hardly hear anything about it. You have to do all
10 the research on your own.

11 The ocean is being contaminated with
12 radiation, and the air is coming through here and also
13 into the currents so the fish you eat from California
14 and Oregon and all over from Japan is going to be
15 contaminated, too. So no matter what you think, what
16 you eat might make a difference in your life.

17 I brought this cup because today I was in
18 the hospitality room, and they had wonderful food
19 there, but they had no place to put the waste, just
20 like the nuclear waste here. We have no place to put
21 this. Nobody wants it, no state really wants it
22 unless you're getting paid a lot of money, and then
23 some people who have the power to make decisions will
24 go for that.

25 I'm just urging you to listen carefully to

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1 everything people say and do what's right when you
2 make your decision for that. And I have one final
3 thing. As a famous person in Russia took their shoe
4 and pounded and said, "Please, do what's right."

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. I,-- that was
7 Tara Hands. Thanks, Tara. And we're going to go to
8 Kenneth, Kenneth Ashe right now, and then we're going
9 to go to Timothy Rogers and Jay Wellwood.

10 MR. ASHE: Good evening. Thanks for this
11 opportunity to speak to the crowd here and the NRC.
12 My name is Kenneth Ashe, and I'm here to speak for my
13 children, my grandchildren, and future generations on
14 into however long nuclear radioactive waste might be
15 around for us, for the next 20,000 years, 200,000
16 years. I don't know.

17 It's a problem, isn't it? Oh, there's so
18 many things I'd like to say. One thing I want to get
19 out right now is that I think the big push for why we
20 -- the nuclear power industry keeps gripping, keeps
21 pushing on and on, it's a centralized way of producing
22 electricity. It is easily controlled, dominated by a
23 small group of people.

24 To decentralize the electric grid through
25 solar and wind power would be to give power to the

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1 common man, to democratize our electrical system, and
2 that's the last thing that the rule oligarchy wants is
3 to democratize the system.

4 Okay. I'll get back on to the waste
5 issue. Okay. This white paper, or the general,
6 Generic Environmental Impact Statement, I've got a
7 feeling, you know, I've noticed that when somebody is
8 speaking the truth and they really want to make things
9 clear for you, they can say what they need to say in
10 just a few sentences, maybe a few paragraphs. You
11 know, when people have to go on and on for pages and
12 pages, and use a bunch of big words, and do a bunch of
13 verbal mumbly-jumbly; it's obfuscation, people.
14 They're trying to fool you. They're trying to make a
15 joke out of what they're saying. They want you to --
16 they want your eyes to glaze over, and for you to
17 throw it to the side and say hell, I can't understand
18 this.

19 Well, you know what? I don't care what
20 they say. There's a few facts that we can all see
21 real clearly. Our society started generating nuclear
22 waste back about in the early 1940s. Let's put 1945
23 on it as a date. That's when we dropped atomic bombs
24 on Japan, and we were generating nuclear waste at that
25 time. So, we've known for almost 70 years now that

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1 we've got a problem with what are we going to do with
2 all this waste material, all this radioactive crap
3 that we keep generating?

4 In that 70 years, we are no closer to a
5 solution. These papers that these people come out
6 with saying well, we've got a solution on the way, you
7 know. Trust us. Yes, trust me. We've got a
8 solution. Within 60 years they say we will have a
9 permanent repository for these 200,000 year waste
10 products. I don't believe it. You've had 70 years to
11 come up with it so far, and you ain't anywhere near a
12 solution. Yes, what makes me believe that you're
13 going to have a solution in the next 60 years?

14 I don't believe it. I don't trust you,
15 and when you come up with a real solution that the
16 American people can believe in, then we might consider
17 letting you create some more dangerous nuclear
18 materials. But until then, stop the madness, let's
19 not have any more of this junk.

20 One thing we do do with it, since we don't
21 have anywhere else to put it, we put it into bullets
22 and bombs and we drop it on Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan,
23 and those people don't want our nuclear waste.

24 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay.

25 MR. ASHE: We need to deal with it

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1 ourselves.

2 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
3 Kenneth.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Timothy, Timothy
6 Rogers. And next we'll go to Jay Wellwood, and then
7 we're going to go to Shine Maphet.

8 MR. ROGERS: Hello, my name is Tim Rogers.

9 I work for Duke Energy. I'm a member of the North
10 American Young Generation of Nuclear, but these
11 comments I'm providing are my own personal opinion.
12 I'm just representing myself tonight as a member of
13 the Charlotte community.

14 I would like to thank the NRC for
15 providing this time to provide public comments on the
16 Waste Confidence ruling. I would like to state that I
17 fully agree with and support the conclusions that are
18 proposed in the Environmental Statement Impacts, and I
19 fully believe, with all the technical understanding
20 that I have of the nuclear industry, that the
21 Environmental Impacts stated in that ruling are very
22 clear, concise, and we have a very sound understanding
23 of what is going to occur.

24 Nuclear energy plays a crucial role in our
25 nation's diversified energy portfolio, serves as a

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1 safe, reliable, clean air baseload energy source.
2 Solar power and wind power are different parts of that
3 diversified portfolio, and we fully believe in using
4 those energy sources at Duke Energy, but nuclear has
5 to be a part of that portfolio as well.

6 Nuclear energy makes up nearly 32 percent
7 of the energy in North Carolina, and helps bring
8 stable power prices and availability to all of the
9 residents here. The Energy Department projects that
10 U.S. electricity demand will rise roughly 28 percent
11 by 2040, and the U.S. will need hundreds of new power
12 plants to meet that increased demand over that time
13 frame. Energy demand has grown roughly 2.4 percent
14 per year over the past five years in North Carolina,
15 and in order to meet this energy demand and reduce
16 carbon dioxide emissions at the same time, nuclear
17 energy will need to continue to be a major part of the
18 electricity portfolio.

19 The United States was the first country to
20 develop nuclear power, and we have the largest nuclear
21 program in the world. U.S. reactors have demonstrated
22 over a long period of time their ability to maintain
23 safe operation over their long life times. Stringent
24 federal regulations from the Nuclear Regulatory
25 Commission and an industry culture that has been built

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1 on principles for strong safety culture and the NRC's
2 robust, independent oversight ensure that the nuclear
3 industry reflects a safety first position in every
4 decision that we make, including the safe management
5 of used nuclear fuel.

6 In addition, the NRC holds nuclear power
7 plants to the highest security standards of any
8 American industry to date. Due to nuclear energy's
9 crucial role in our nation's diversified portfolio, it
10 is essential that the NRC complete the Waste
11 Confidence rulemaking and resume issuing new operating
12 licenses and license renewals for nuclear plants.
13 Thank you for your time this evening.

14 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Timothy.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Now we have Jay.

17 MR. WELLWOOD: Good evening, everyone. My
18 name is Jay Wellwood. I'm the Program Manager for Dry
19 Cask Storage projects at the Westinghouse Electric
20 Company.

21 The first thing I'd like to mention to you
22 all is, you know, you just can't trust ADAMS because
23 they make up everything. Right? I'm a member of the
24 American Nuclear Society serving as a Vice Chair of
25 the Fuel Cycle Waste Management Division, as well.

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1 First, I'd like to extend my personal
2 thanks to the NRC representatives for hosting this
3 meeting. I would also like to compliment you and the
4 staff on the quality of the documents that you have
5 prepared. The documents are very well written, and
6 laid out in very sound, logical fashion.

7 My career in nuclear started in the United
8 States Navy where I served for six years, three years
9 aboard a nuclear-powered submarine stationed in
10 Charleston, South Carolina. When I exited the Navy, I
11 entered the nuclear power industry. The first step
12 was in Operations where I earned my reactor operator's
13 license at a commercial plant, and then I transitioned
14 over to supporting dry cask storage operations in
15 1994.

16 I loaded fuel in my first dry fuel storage
17 canister in 1996. I'm involved with virtually every
18 aspect of dry cask storage process at reactor sites to
19 date, from performing nearly every physical task
20 associated with the placement and sealing of used fuel
21 canisters, to performing engineering and licensing
22 technical evaluations that document the impact of
23 implementation of dry cask storage systems at numerous
24 reactor sites around the country. I am intimately
25 familiar with the majority of all dry cask storage

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1 systems licensed for use in the United States by the
2 Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

3 As you well know, dry cask storage
4 containers have been deployed successfully across
5 these United States since 1986 at both active and
6 decommissioned reactor sites. These containers have
7 been qualified by analytical methods, and proven by
8 rigorous testing to be able to successfully withstand
9 any accident scenario, whether it be natural or a
10 manmade event.

11 Based off my experience, it is my
12 professional opinion that there is substantial
13 evidence to support the conclusions in the report
14 regarding at and away from reactor storage, as well as
15 the conclusions regarding cumulative impacts of those
16 scenarios when combined with other federal and non-
17 federal actions.

18 There are no technical barriers to
19 achieving this result, nor are there any financial
20 barriers given the current and growing balance of the
21 Nuclear Waste Fund which contains over \$26 billion to
22 date and continues to grow.

23 The analysis contained in the Waste
24 Confidence draft Generic Environmental Impact
25 Statement support what the Commission and those of us

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1 in the industry have long known; if necessary, used
2 fuel can continue to be stored in a safe,
3 environmentally sound manner for a very long period of
4 time while we wait for the political process to reach
5 consensus on a final disposal solution.

6 For nearly 56 years now, American homes,
7 businesses, and government operations have benefitted
8 from electricity generated using nuclear technology
9 safely.

10 In closing, it is my professional opinion
11 that there are simply no indication that even a
12 minimal decrease in safety margin or a challenge to
13 the environment will be experienced by the continued
14 practice of storage of used fuel in dry fuel storage
15 canisters at or away from reactor sites for 60, 160,
16 or even indefinitely. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Jay.
18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: And is this Shine,
21 Shine Maphet?

22 MS. MAPHET: Sheila.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Sheila?

24 MS. MAPHET: Sheila Maphet.

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Sheila Maphet, okay.

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1 This is Sheila Maphet.

2 MS. MAPHET: Thank you. I am really
3 honored to be able to speak with you. My name is
4 Sheila Maphet. I am a Green Granny. That's an
5 environmentalist and I'm a long time member of Sierra
6 Club, and I belong to 350.org, so you can see that I'm
7 extremely concerned about our environment.

8 And it concerns me a great deal that we
9 are creating waste that lasts for, I don't know,
10 thousands of years. I'm not technical, but it is very
11 -- I mean, you know, suppose we could store it safely
12 for 160 years. Well, you know, I won't be around but
13 my grandchildren will be, and my great-grandchildren
14 will be, and I'm concerned about them. And I don't --
15 I know that nothing remains the same.

16 I hear all this technical stuff. Well,
17 you know, it's been good for 50 years. It's been good
18 for 60 years, but it's not going to be good forever.
19 We know that. We know it through history. We know it
20 from Fukushima. We know -- I mean, great grannies in
21 Fukushima are giving up their life in Japan, are
22 giving up their life to clean up the mess there. I
23 don't want to do it here. And I don't want my
24 grandchildren to do it, either.

25 So, basically, I see -- you know, I hear

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1 things that sound sort of reasonable, you know. If
2 you don't think that things are ever going to change,
3 but I know they do. I've lived long enough to see
4 that things do not stay the same, and we don't have
5 the control. And with our environment getting worse
6 day by day, we have no idea what kind of weather we
7 might have in South Carolina. So, thank you very
8 much.

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Sheila.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: We're going to go --
12 our next speakers are Charles Pennington, Monica
13 Embrey, Betsey Rivard, Lewis Patrie, and Terrence
14 Clark. Charles.

15 MR. PENNINGTON: Good evening. I'm
16 Charlie Pennington, and I'm with NAC International. I
17 have more than three decades of experience in used
18 fuel system design, licensing, and operation. I've
19 led development; I've led testing; I've led licensing.

20 I would like to express appreciation to
21 the NRC for having this public meeting tonight. I do
22 greatly support the NRC's efforts in the preparation
23 of the GEIS which will help advance Waste Confidence
24 for our industry, but tonight I want to expand upon
25 the robustness of dry used fuel systems, which is more

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1 than just a bit understated and, in fact, under-
2 documented in the GEIS both for severe accidents and
3 for potential acts of sabotage and terrorism.

4 I will use some selected information
5 presented to the Blue Ribbon Commission in 2010 and
6 2011. Dry used fuel systems are among the safest of
7 all industrial technologies as presented and discussed
8 by the National Academy of Sciences in two
9 publications. Extensive safety analyses and testing
10 have been performed to conclude that used fuel systems
11 in a license configuration will not release
12 radioactive material under any credible accident
13 conditions. Conservative materials for used package
14 containment boundaries result in about two orders of
15 magnitude more energy absorption capability before
16 failure than is permitted for credit by our current
17 design standards, and that is one reason why the
18 largest conditional consequence doses reported in the
19 GEIS and, in fact, in the NUREG-1864 reference
20 document are incorrect. They greatly overstate what
21 the actual results would be.

22 With respect to potential acts of sabotage
23 or terrorism, many analyses of highly improbable
24 sabotage or accident occurrences have shown that such
25 events are most unlikely to result in dry used fuel

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1 system containment boundary breaches because of their
2 rugged designs. For terrorist-induced, beyond design-
3 basis events, only those involving high energy density
4 devices or a specific type of military weapon have any
5 real opportunity of compromising dry used fuel system
6 integrity. The probability of system breach is still
7 vanishingly small, since reasonable proximity to the
8 package and time consuming precise placement of such
9 weapons must be achieved for perfect impact condition
10 which is commonly called zero obliquity.

11 Substantial testing and analyses show that
12 radioactive material release from such an attack would
13 be extremely limited. Used fuel that might be
14 released would be of such a small quantity and it
15 would be very localized to around the system. The
16 fraction of contents that would be released would be
17 trivial. What this means is that any resulting
18 exposures would be far below, and I say far below the
19 unregulated doses to the public received from dozens
20 of non-nuclear industries year after year, decade
21 after decade.

22 Finally, I would encourage the NRC to
23 provide more details in the GEIS that are similar to
24 these that I have just laid out regarding package
25 robustness so that the public, in fact, can understand

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1 exactly what the NRC truly knows. This concludes my
2 remarks. Thank you very much.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Charles.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Monica, this is
6 Monica, and next we're going to go to Betsey Rivard.

7 MS. EMBREY: Good evening. My name is
8 Monica Embrey, and I'm the North Carolina lead
9 organizer for Greenpeace. Greenpeace has a long and
10 rich history of fighting nuclear energy. And I want
11 to start by telling you about a story that happened to
12 me two and a half years ago.

13 I was at the site, actually, with my best
14 friend who lives in Japan, Fukuoka, and her name is
15 Aki. And in the middle of our conversation, all of a
16 sudden the computer screen started to shake, and she
17 jumped and screamed "Earthquake." She then had to
18 hide in the small door frame of her one-bedroom
19 apartment. That was the day that the tides rose and
20 the triple meltdown happened at Fukushima.

21 Since then I have heard heartbreaking
22 stories of what the communities in Japan are going
23 through; the sacrifices of the elders knowing that
24 they face certain death, but still go out to help with
25 the cleanup efforts; the mothers who are begging for

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1 the lives of their children, and crying out to the
2 world, "Nidoto nai yoni," which means let it never
3 happen again.

4 We face those same threats here where
5 dozens of reactors in the United States or overly
6 loaded fuel ponds are sitting three stories tall. And
7 since they are outside of the containment could
8 contaminate entire states.

9 Many of us in the room know that the NRC
10 is a captured agency, and its inability to adequately
11 regulate the nuclear industry and protect the public
12 has never been more evident than it is today, but yet
13 we are still hopeful this can change, and we will
14 continue to fight.

15 As was mentioned in the presentation
16 today, the NRC is charged with protecting the public's
17 health and safety, but the draft Generic EIS fails
18 people and our planet by not adequately addressing the
19 real risks of nuclear waste once again.

20 Today hundreds of unpaid concerned
21 citizens are here tonight to ask you to stop
22 protecting the corporations like Duke Energy,
23 headquartered here in Charlotte, and instead defend
24 the people of the United States.

25 Recently, Duke Energy CEO Lynn Good had

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1 expressed her intention to continue Duke's nuclear
2 fleet. We do not have confidence in this ruling, or
3 in the ability of companies like Duke to manage their
4 nuclear plants; see Crystal River in Florida.

5 We know the real risks of nuclear energy
6 and its waste, and that is why we are asking you to
7 abandon this general ruling and instead draft
8 individual EISs for each location. The only solution
9 for nuclear waste is to stop producing it.

10 We oppose this EIS, and any new operating
11 licenses for nuclear plants. Cleaner and cheaper
12 energy is the future. This includes solar and wind.
13 I'm glad to hear that Duke Energy is also investing in
14 them, but would love to see more than 3 percent in the
15 Carolinas in the next 30 years. Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. And
18 Betsey, Betsey Rivard, and then Lewis Patrie, and
19 Terrence Clark.

20 MS. RIVARD: Hi, I'm Betsey Rivard. I'm
21 here on behalf of Georgia WAND, Women's Action for New
22 Directions, and also Nuclear Watch South, and I live
23 in Atlanta. I drove, spending almost five hours
24 driving up here. And my father actually worked in Oak
25 Ridge. I spent the first five years of my life in Oak

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1 Ridge, Tennessee. And he was a metallurgist, but he
2 actually recovered from the nuclear virus, and after
3 he moved away he looked at nuclear energy and nuclear
4 -- all things nuclear in a totally different light.
5 And he was concerned about nuclear waste, as am I.

6 We need to move the spent or irradiated
7 fuel rods from pools at reactor sites to hardened
8 onsite storage. I am a supporter of hardened onsite
9 storage. If there ever is to be one site where the
10 fuel would be, it would have to go to dry casks,
11 anyway, to be transported, so I say move it to dry
12 casks as soon as possible.

13 Let's see. Spent fuel pools are targets
14 for terrorists, and moving the waste to interim
15 storage would create hundreds of new waste sites, the
16 mobile waste sites, plus trucks and trains and boats,
17 whatever; ships, and not to mention new targets.

18 I'm sure the authorities in Japan also
19 considered the potential negative impacts of storing
20 nuclear waste in the pools onsite to be small just as
21 this EIS does, but accidents happen. Because of
22 Fukushima we know the negative effects of storing
23 spent fuel in pools onsite. We need to stop making
24 the waste, and stop licensing and relicensing nuclear
25 plants to make more waste.

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1 DR. PATRIE: I'm Dr. Lewis Patrie, Chair
2 Emeritus of Western North Carolina Physicians for
3 Social Responsibility.

4 Would not the proposed transportation of
5 radioactive waste establish consolidated interim sites
6 for high-level radioactive waste, initiating transport
7 of tens of thousands of casks of lethal radioactive
8 waste on our roads and railways for the primary
9 benefit of the nuclear power industry, while
10 endangering the health and safety of millions of
11 Americans? As long as nuclear reactors generate this
12 waste would not interim waste sites simply create more
13 contaminated sites, while at the same time allow for
14 the production of ever increasing amounts of these
15 dangerous materials for which future generations would
16 have to contend?

17 While the Department of Energy and energy
18 corporations have stressed a long track record of
19 decades of safe nuclear power, isn't there much
20 evidence that such claims cannot be substantiated?
21 Isn't there evidence that the entire nuclear energy
22 cycle consistently emits low levels of radioactive
23 nuclides which results in human exposure to these
24 materials? Have nuclear energy proponents ignored the
25 evidence provided by many reputable scientists who

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1 believe based on their research that there is no
2 threshold for radiation damage to humans, no dose
3 which is harmless? And I cite Dr. Steve Wing's study
4 and others.

5 Such findings exist among many reports
6 that even very low doses of radiation can induce
7 cellular damage that can result in increased
8 incidences of cancer and genetic defects; risks from
9 incidents involving increased transportation of these
10 very highly dangerous nuclear materials could expose
11 populations to unacceptable dangers.

12 Do not precautionary principles call for
13 rapidly phasing out of nuclear power? Our nation
14 should be accelerating maximum development of ending
15 wasteful energy practices, improving energy
16 efficiency, and putting resources planned for the very
17 excessive and escalating costs of nuclear power into
18 truly renewable energy resources, especially solar,
19 wind, and geothermal.

20 Ending the generation of radioactive waste
21 would be the most effective single step toward
22 addressing our radioactive waste dilemma. Instead of
23 a so-called temporary proposal of transporting high
24 quantities of these materials, our experts should
25 adopt a plan of stopping them and storing them in high

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1 dry hardened secure onsite facilities until a
2 permanent scientifically defensible and publicly
3 acceptable waste solution is developed.

4 Are we -- as we consider the Environmental
5 Impact Statement proposed, remember, there's nothing
6 as likely to become permanent as a temporary solution.

7 Are we not all downwinders with achieved -- with
8 unknown manmade radionuclides in our bodies? Are we
9 C-- do we have the human intellect to find a way to
10 determine how much of these nuclides are in our bodies
11 at the present time?

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: Can I ask you to
13 finish up, Dr. Patrie?

14 DR. PATRIE: Yes, I'm just about done.
15 Has the human intellect the capacity to discern if
16 there is a human burden which will ultimately threaten
17 human existence? I think not. Precautionary
18 principles direct us to stop making radioactive waste.

19 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
22 And this is Terrence Clark.

23 MR. CLARK: Hello, my name is Terry Clark.
24 I'm a physician, a psychiatrist, and I'm currently
25 the Chairperson in Western North Carolina for the

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1 group that Dr. Patrie and I belong to, Physicians for
2 Social Responsibility.

3 Our group goes back in history to the '60s
4 and '70s, and in the '70s and '80s we were very
5 focused on nuclear weapons and how there could be such
6 catastrophe with the detonation of nuclear weapons;
7 the humanitarian destruction that could occur.

8 Now we're much more -- we've come to
9 recognize the close tie between nuclear weapons and
10 nuclear -- commercial nuclear power. As was mentioned
11 a number of times, it can be reprocessed but one of
12 the products of reprocessing can be plutonium; thus,
13 that's why we're so concerned about Iran and other
14 countries having commercial power capabilities.

15 I think the EIS needs a great deal of
16 reworking. I think certain basic tenets need to
17 profuse and underlie everything in that study. One of
18 them is that ionizing radiation can cause cancers. We
19 know that from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We know that
20 from Chernobyl and we know that from Japan, but there
21 is whitewashing going on.

22 There are studies coming out from the UN,
23 and when you go to the NRC you see that what they say
24 in their website is that we're pleased that no ill
25 effects of radiation have occurred. They do add more

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1 time is needed.

2 There is evidence already of thyroid
3 cancers in children, and there's -- Chernobyl, I mean,
4 the Japanese tragedy is not over yet. They're still
5 actively being exposed to radiation.

6 I want to get at one of the most important
7 issues, and that is the structural problems with the
8 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the revolving door. I
9 went to the section on Ethics in the NRC website, and
10 it looked thorough, and I was pleased to see they gave
11 some examples of how someone, if they're a professor,
12 could go give a lecture and not get extra money. What
13 I didn't find was the example of how someone can make
14 a favorable ruling regarding a corporation and then
15 have a job with them in three months. That's not
16 addressed in the Ethics. I don't know that --

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. CLARK: The Japan parliament
19 commissioned an independent study, and what they got
20 back was the number one concern was the structural
21 problems in Japan of the close tie to industry and the
22 regulators, and they place major blame on that. Thus,
23 that is a recommendation that affects the environment,
24 affects all of this. We've heard this stuff, you
25 know, lasts for thousands and thousands and thousands

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1 of years, and we don't have plans. We have to stop
2 making this poison. Thank you.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.
6 Okay, our next speakers are Ashleigh Wesley, Avram
7 Friedman, Ole Sorenson, Rod McCullum, and Andrew Cook.
8 Ashleigh.

9 MS. WESLEY: Good evening. My name is
10 Ashleigh Wesley. I work as a lead engineer for the
11 dry cask storage project at Vogtle Nuclear Plant
12 operated by Southern Nuclear, a subsidiary of Southern
13 Company. Thank you for the opportunity to make a
14 statement today at this meeting.

15 Southern Nuclear strongly believes that
16 nuclear energy is an integral part of the national
17 energy plan and must continue to generate an essential
18 share of the nation's clean, non-emitting, zero carbon
19 baseload electricity. Nuclear energy generates 17
20 percent of the carbon-free electricity produced by
21 Southern Company and that will increase with the
22 completion of the construction of the two new units at
23 Vogtle, currently underway.

24 Southern Nuclear's top priority is the
25 safety and health of the public and our employees. We

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1 are committed to the safe operation of our nuclear
2 generating facilities with equipment and systems that
3 meet strict NRC safety and design regulations. To
4 that end, we urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to
5 continue its strong independent oversight of
6 commercial nuclear energy facilities, the operation of
7 existing plants, licensing new reactors, renewing the
8 operating licenses of existing reactors, and the
9 management, transportation, and disposal of used
10 nuclear fuel.

11 Used nuclear fuel is equally safe in pools
12 or in dry storage located at nuclear energy
13 facilities, and we use both at Vogtle. The NRC has
14 reiterated the safety and security of used nuclear
15 fuel management and post-Fukushima. Used nuclear fuel
16 is well protected from potential natural events and
17 terrorist attacks by a combination of sturdy design
18 and construction, multiple safety systems, ongoing
19 surveillance and inspection, and state-of-the-art
20 security measures. Used fuel pools are large robust
21 structures with reinforced concrete walls several feet
22 thick and steel liners. Water offers superb shielding
23 for radiation, and every fuel pool offers 25 to 30
24 feet of water for shielding and fuel cooling. The
25 volume of water in the pools is so large that any

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1 evaporative process associated with a loss of cooling
2 system would provide ample time for operators to
3 establish backup water supply. All used fuel pools
4 are designed to seismic standards consistent with
5 other important safety-related structures on plant
6 sites.

7 Augmenting already redundant safety
8 systems to insure cooling of fuel assemblies in pools,
9 the industry has added backup cooling water spray
10 systems and placed potable water supply equipment at
11 locations near the pools so they can be available
12 quickly in the event of an emergency.

13 As part of their post-Fukushima safety
14 enhancements, our facilities are also adding
15 instrumentation with improved capabilities to monitor
16 levels in used fuel pools in the face of extreme
17 events, such as Fukushima.

18 Dry storage containers are robust concrete
19 and steel structures with no moving parts. Multiple
20 barriers provide the defense-in-depth protection.
21 More than 100 tons of concrete and steel forms a
22 precisely engineered structure to protect every 10
23 tons of used fuel.

24 Over the past 30 years, the nuclear
25 industry has safely loaded more than 1,700 dry storage

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1 systems. All these systems are in service today, and
2 there has been zero release of their radioactive
3 contents. To gain license renewal, facilities must
4 put in place stringent Aging Management programs to
5 insure the containers are adequately maintained and
6 inspected. Vogtle has done that and will continue to
7 do so each and every our license is up for renewal.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Can I ask you to
9 finish up Ashleigh?

10 MS. WESLEY: Sure. We believe it is
11 important for the NRC to continue its transparent and
12 efficient efforts and to maintain its 24-month
13 schedule for the current Waste Confidence proceedings
14 so that progress on both plant licensing and used fuel
15 management can continue. I would like to thank the
16 NRC for hosting this public meeting and providing
17 opportunity for comments. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: And this is Avram.

21 MR. FRIEDMAN: Hello, my name is Avram
22 Friedman. I'm the Executive Director of the Canary
23 Coalition, a grassroots environmental organization in
24 Western North Carolina with 2,300 members.

25 Let me begin by stating that it's hard for

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1 me to believe that there's any confidence in the
2 prospect that there is or ever will be an adequate
3 solution to the permanent storage of high-level
4 nuclear waste. I don't see how there could ever be
5 public confidence, judicial confidence, regulatory
6 confidence, industrial confidence, scientific
7 confidence. I don't see how any thoughtful, sane,
8 intelligent person within this room, or outside this
9 room knows intuitively -- doesn't know intuitively
10 that it's impossible to guarantee the monitoring and
11 containment of anything for hundreds of thousands of
12 years, much less corrosive, hot and deadly spent
13 nuclear fuel rods containing plutonium-239--
14 plutonium-239, with a half-life of 24,110 years, and
15 among the deadliest, most carcinogenic substances
16 known to humankind.

17 As I'm sure you've heard repeatedly, the
18 pyramids in Giza are only about 5,000 years old and we
19 struggle to try to interpret the hieroglyphics written
20 on stones that have survived the ages. Even if we
21 could somehow supernaturally contain this waste in
22 leak-proof containers forever, what language will we
23 use to print warning signs to future civilizations
24 that may unwittingly uncover our spent nuclear fuels
25 10,000, 50,000 years, or 100,000 years from now? Do

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1 we just shrug our collective shoulders and exclaim,
2 "Who cares what happens that far in the future?"

3 Well, for the record, I care. I care
4 about my children, my grandchildren, and the welfare
5 of all future generations, and I consider it my
6 responsibility not to willingly do them harm through
7 my actions today, especially through a totally
8 unnecessary activity such as boiling water through the
9 use of nuclear chain reaction to create steam that
10 runs a 19th century technology turbine in an
11 inefficient, dirty, and environmentally irresponsible
12 and obsolete method of generating electricity.

13 We don't have to do this because we can
14 dramatically reduce energy consumption through public
15 policies that drive conservation and energy
16 efficiency, as well as the deployment of clean, safe,
17 and renewable technologies that harvest the sunlight,
18 the wind, geothermal heat, the ocean waves and tides.

19 For more than 25 years, I was a plumbing
20 contractor. On occasion, I'd be called by a frantic
21 person who had a flooded basement because a water main
22 had broken. Water was everywhere, knee deep or
23 higher, damaging the structure of the building,
24 ruining the contents, undermining foundation. When
25 that happens, I could tell you with expert certainty

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1 that the first thing you do to address the problem is
2 to shut off the water supply. Then you begin to deal
3 with the water that is already accumulated. If you
4 don't shut off the water first, all subsequent efforts
5 solving the problem are more or less futile. Any
6 sane, thoughtful, and intelligent person understands
7 this.

8 There's no difference in the logic of
9 dealing with our current conundrum on high-level
10 nuclear waste. The first thing we have to do is stop
11 making more nuclear waste. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
14 Thank you, Avram. And this is Ole Sorenson. All
15 right.

16 MR. SORENSON: Well, guess what I think?
17 Well, one of these days in a random act of hope this
18 little thing, this little ditty came to me. It was a
19 dark and stormy night of the nuclear powers when the
20 people fought the radiation showers, and in spite of
21 its friendly atom, it had made absolutely no peace on
22 the planet, and hardly anyone could muster flower
23 powers. But then the NRC came finally and had a great
24 vision, and gathered their courage with much greater
25 mission. They swallowed their pride, they took it in

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1 great stride, and declared that now is the end of
2 nuclear fission.

3 Now, I'm back here today to raise my voice
4 to be heard and to speak against mankind's greatest
5 folly. I'm again showing up like a bad penny, but
6 with all the sense this penny can muster. Making
7 sense of nuclear power is something that I have never
8 been able to do. No matter what I read, how I turn
9 it, I always end up shaking my head and wonder how did
10 we come up with such a pea-brained idea.

11 We have had more than 50 years of wasted
12 confidence and it's time for a real solution. This
13 GEIS is the Generic Environmentally Ignorant Singsong
14 that does, indeed, require a good spanking and ought
15 to be filed where the sun don't shine, and never be
16 heard of again. We deserve better than this.

17 This public meeting is supposed to be an
18 important part of the Democratic system where the many
19 voices can be heard, and much more importantly, be
20 respected. I promise you, the NRC, that the time has
21 come when you will begin to feel the ire of us who has
22 commonsense, and who realize how stupid this whole
23 nuclear circus always has been.

24 I have absolutely no confidence in any
25 solution dealing with any more nuclear waste than to

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1 stop making the darned stuff. And don't even consider
2 some desperate idea that the waste can be used as fuel
3 in a new generation. Give me a break.

4 At this point, you still have a small
5 chance to redeem yourself and maybe get a decent
6 review in the future history books. Otherwise, I can
7 promise you that the next 6,000 generations will look
8 back at your misguided activities with much disdain,
9 anger, and disbelief.

10 So, to close, stop being an embarrassment
11 to the human race and show us the courage that will
12 make us all smile and let out a big sigh of relief.
13 It's time to get out of the diapers and grow into
14 responsible human beings. Putting a stop to the
15 nuclear power generation will definitely show real
16 leadership and true concern for the quality of life in
17 the generations to come. Thank you.

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Why don't you go,
21 Andrew, and then we'll go to Rod. So, we're going to
22 go Andrew, Rod, and then Frank Barilla.

23 MR. COOK: Representative of the NRC
24 staff, fellow environmentalists, ladies and gentlemen,
25 we can all be confident that used nuclear fuel is

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1 being safely stored, can be safely stored, and will be
2 safely stored.

3 My name is Andrew Cook. I'm a father.
4 I'm an environmentalist, I'm a physicist, and I'm also
5 an engineer. I'm a father of three children. I work
6 for the Appalachian Mountain Club. I was on my
7 Township Environmental Advisory Board. I earned my
8 Ph.D. from MIT where I also did work in physics with
9 Sam Ting on the experiment for which he won the Nobel
10 Prize. I earned two engineering degrees beyond that
11 at MIT.

12 My father actually designed some of the
13 very first nuclear fuel that mankind ever has made,
14 and ever has used. I am confident, and you can be
15 confident that nuclear fuel is, can be, and will be
16 safely stored. It is safely stored because the used
17 fuel that is stored at the sites was designed by many
18 of my friends, some of who are here today, using the
19 stringent standards required by the Nuclear Regulatory
20 Commission.

21 I have also been to those sites and seen
22 how the operators of those plants have so carefully
23 managed that fuel and continue to prudently manage it,
24 and I have observed the Nuclear Regulatory onsite
25 inspectors who rigorously require that the operators

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1 maintain adherence to the Nuclear Regulatory
2 requirements.

3 I say it can be safely stored for the
4 following reason. It is being safely stored under
5 U.S. license by the United States Department of Energy
6 at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico,
7 2,000 feet underground, actinides are being stored in
8 a salt dome right now as licensed by the United States
9 Government. I say it can be safely stored because my
10 company, AREVA, will today take any nuclear fuel from
11 any nuclear power plant in the United States, put it
12 with the thousands of fuel assemblies we have at our
13 La Hague reprocessing facility, and even recycle it
14 today, extract the plutonium, and just like we burned
15 plutonium for Russian nuclear weapons in U.S. nuclear
16 reactors to take that plutonium off the street as a
17 weapon and instead peacefully produce electricity, we
18 can do the same today with U.S. nuclear fuel at our
19 recycling facility and take the small amount of extra
20 material and melt into glass logs this size to keep it
21 protected from the environment.

22 But I say again, it can be safely stored
23 because for those who ask about the long timelines, in
24 one of our mines in the Oklo Mine in Gabon we
25 discovered there were no less than 60 nuclear

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1 reactors, nuclear fission reactors which ran 1.7
2 billion years ago, long before human beings existed.
3 I encourage you to look it up. And how we know that
4 they were there? Because by the grace of God that
5 nuclear fuel was safely stored. And what happened,
6 when the water got on it? It precipitated into the
7 water and then moved as much as a foot, and then
8 precipitated out of solution as crystals. And we
9 found those crystals so we know the fuel can be stored
10 for 1.7 billion years. It, in fact, has actually
11 happened.

12 Also, I will say it will be safely stored
13 for the following reason. If you make a dry storage
14 facility underground, water would have to come down
15 through thousands of feet of rock where it's never
16 been, penetrate through stainless steel, come through
17 zirconium, and then try to dissolve a ceramic like
18 this cup, a ceramic like this cup, water doesn't
19 dissolve it.

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: I'm going to have to
21 ask you to finish up, Andrew.

22 MR. COOK: I have to finish up?

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Yes, please.

24 MR. COOK: Okay. Thank you very much,
25 ladies and gentlemen. I'm a concerned father. I'm

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1 concerned about my children, my grandchildren, and my
2 great-grandchildren. I'm concerned about the
3 environmental impact of the many other energy sources
4 that you and I are breathing the waste of, the
5 gasoline you used to drive here today. We can all be
6 confident that used nuclear fuel is being safely
7 stored, can be safely stored, and will be safely
8 stored. I ask the NRC Commissioners to pass the new
9 Safe Storage rule. Thank you.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Andrew.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR CAMERON: Next we're going to go
13 to Frank Barilla, and then we're going to go to
14 Claude. Okay.

15 MR. McCULLUM: Hi, my name is Rod
16 McCullum. I work for the Nuclear Energy Institute,
17 the trade association that represents the industry, so
18 many of the companies are represented here today. And
19 I just want to say how proud I am to for the last 15
20 years to have been able to serve as the representative
21 of these skilled, dedicated, hardworking
22 professionals, so many of whom have shown up tonight
23 to show their support for this rulemaking. Of course,
24 the Nuclear Energy Institute will also show its
25 support; we will comment specifically. But those of

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1 you who do this work, those of you who I have seen
2 safely manage the pools over a 50-year period, safely
3 load over 1,700 dry casks, developed technological
4 innovations in both the pools and the casks to assure
5 safety, you are my inspiration.

6 One of the things that's kept me going in
7 this sometimes frustrating end of the business for the
8 last 15 years, is that it is a business where people
9 don't get into the business unless they really believe
10 in what they're doing, and they don't stay in the
11 business unless they're really good at what they're
12 doing.

13 Charlotte, you are so very lucky to be a
14 hub of this industry, to have so many of these
15 companies located here, all of the jobs. They are
16 doing good work for America. I'm proud to say that
17 for my entire life millions of people have been
18 getting the benefits of safe, clean, and reliable
19 electricity from nuclear energy.

20 The people I'm speaking out for today, the
21 people who I work for, they don't just enrich America
22 with the efforts they do, they have enriched your
23 communities. They are an important part of the fabric
24 of this part of the country.

25 I'm jealous. I live in the Washington,

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1 D.C. area. I'm surrounded by a bunch of politicians.

2 I think we have a lot of differing opinions but a lot
3 of common grounds about what the politicians have done
4 with this issue.

5 Waste confidence is just one small piece
6 of the regulatory puzzle that nuclear professionals
7 must deal with every day, and these are professionals
8 that don't just meet regulations, they exceed
9 regulations. The court was very specific, the
10 findings were very narrow; NRC has addressed these. A
11 lot of talk about the generic nature and whether
12 that's appropriate.

13 NRC has done it appropriately because
14 they've been bounding a lot of enveloping assumptions
15 in here. Impacts are shown to be small, but in
16 reality they're even smaller. We won't be repackaging
17 every 100 years; we won't be building dry transfer
18 facilities at every site; we won't be waiting 60 years
19 to move fuel out of pools at shutdown plants. The
20 average since dry cask storage was invented is 11
21 years.

22 So, in closing, there's a lot to be
23 confident. There will be more innovation. And,
24 Charlotte, you have a lot to be proud of, and thank
25 you.

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(Applause.)

MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Rod. Thank you. Now we're going to go to Frank Barilla, and then we're going to go to Claude Howard.

MR. BARILLA: My name is Frank Barilla, and I'm a manager at AREVA. I'm also a licensed professional engineer in the State of North Carolina, and I grew up in South Florida 15 miles from the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. I've been working as a mechanical engineer for 24 years. The first five years were in the aerospace industry, and I've been involved with nuclear power for the balance, 19 years.

I'm surprised that as a society we voiced all these concerns about nuclear energy, but we're very comfortable with commercial airlines. Both of these industries provide benefits to society by implementing complex and intricate technologies. Both of these industries are filled with dedicated professionals who have spent their life's work trying to understand how to harness the technology, and make it safe for the public. Let me say that again. Both of these industries are filled with dedicated professionals who have spent their life's work understanding how to harness the technology, and make it safe for the public.

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1 Both of these industries have independent
2 regulatory structures to insure the public safety.
3 Tonight's meeting is an example of the Nuclear
4 Regulatory process in action. In addition to the NRC,
5 the nuclear industry also has established the
6 Institute for Nuclear Power Operations, which is an
7 organization that the industry uses to help itself
8 improve, in addition to the oversight provided by the
9 NRC. Both the nuclear and airline industries have
10 proven safety records.

11 Concerning the Waste Confidence Rule,
12 these dedicated professionals have done analysis to
13 show the storage of the spent fuel and dry storage is
14 safe. Storage either onsite at power plants or
15 offsite is also feasible, and 25 to 35 years is a
16 reasonable estimate for the time period, while a
17 longer term solution is implemented.

18 In addition, spent fuel has been stored
19 safely for decades. The technology is proven, and
20 mature, and well understood, more well understood than
21 the iPods that we're all using tonight to take
22 pictures.

23 Other countries, such as France, Finland,
24 and Sweden have solved this problem and are putting
25 geological repositories in place. Developing a final

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1 storage rule allowing the outside storage of spent
2 fuel has a negligible environmental impact. I would
3 also argue that the nuclear technology with a
4 negligible environmental impact is actually a positive
5 impact when compared with fossil fuels, because
6 nuclear does not provide -- not generate carbon
7 dioxide emissions.

8 Even renewable technologies like solar and
9 wind can increase carbon emissions, since they're
10 often coupled with natural gas turbines to generate
11 electricity when the sun isn't shining and the wind
12 isn't blowing.

13 I'd like to thank the professionals at the
14 NRC for their hard work developing this rule, and I
15 urge the Commission to approve it.

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: And Claude, Claude
19 Howard, and then we're going to go to Beverly Kerr and
20 Kitty Richards. This is Claude Howard.

21 MR. HOWARD: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Claude Howard. I'm a resident of Burke County about
23 10 miles from Plant Vogtle. And just by living in
24 that area and watching Plant Vogtle as they're
25 building two new reactors, it makes you wonder some

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1 time, when with all the spent fuel they already have
2 there, that they're going to build two more reactors
3 and put some more spent fuel there, and where is it
4 going? Where are they going to store it at?

5 I'm one of the common people in that area.

6 I was born and raised in that area. And with our
7 politicians and our government, to me it seems though
8 they are accepting bribes instead of looking out for
9 the common people, for the people that God put here on
10 this earth for us to protect each other, but through
11 that circumstance, to me it seems it's all about
12 greed. What can I get for myself?

13 When you stand up there and make those
14 decisions, are you making decisions for yourself, for
15 your personal gain, or are you making decision for the
16 people? You should be for the people because that's
17 what this country was built on. We are the people of
18 the United States of America. When you harm me, you
19 harm the whole nation because are individual, but yet
20 we are collective, and we're all God's children. And
21 when you start making decisions for your personal gain
22 and your greed within your heart, may God have mercy
23 on your soul. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Claude.

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1 Beverly? No? Kitty, Kitty Richards.

2 MS. RICHARDS: Hey, everybody. My name is
3 Kitty Richards, and many people here today have made
4 and will make very important points on this issue. As
5 for myself, I'm in education because children are the
6 hope of the future. I'm here because radioactive
7 nuclear waste opposes that hope.

8 Ladies and gentlemen, for the sake of time
9 I don't have a lot to say, but I hope you'll hear
10 everyone who speaks tonight with an open mind, and
11 especially those who are coming from their own home
12 states where nuclear waste is emitted, or is created
13 and has been leaking into the environment. The future
14 of our precious planet depends on what you decide to
15 do.

16 The intolerable and deadly effects of
17 nuclear energy shown by Fukushima and the accident
18 that happened there proves that nuclear energy is not
19 safe, is not clean, and it's not reliable. Just
20 because a major accident hasn't happened yet in the
21 United States doesn't mean it won't, nor does it
22 discount the very real and present threat of all the
23 leaks that are currently occurring in radioactive
24 waste dumps.

25 How can we even consider moving such

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1 waste, risking devastating consequences to people and
2 the environment by radiation poisoning; the poisoning
3 of our land and water cannot be reclaimed. We can't
4 take it back. Let's not make any more mistakes about
5 this. Let's not move any waste, nor make any more
6 waste either. Let's remember the children. What we
7 do will be their reality for generations to come.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. And is
11 Beverly Kerr here? There's Beverly. Okay. And then
12 we're going to go to Juan Abendaño, Deb Arnason, and
13 Lee Causey.

14 MS. KERR: Good evening. I'm Beverly
15 Kerr. I come from Alamance County, North Carolina. I
16 work for Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League. I'm
17 also a volunteer with Neighborhood Environment Watch,
18 which is an Alamance County chapter of the League.

19 Misleading and biased information is being
20 given to the public here. The NRC and the industry is
21 ignoring real world multiple risk factors. We all
22 know that waste cannot be contained for as long as it
23 poses a hazard. We see that nuclear plants are
24 becoming permanent waste dumps. This increases the
25 need for a safer storage plan. Irradiated fuel pools

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1 are dramatically overcrowded and not protected. At
2 least minimize the risk of storage of irradiated fuel
3 by placing it below ground and get it out of cooling
4 pools like those at Shearon Harris near Raleigh.

5 Shearon Harris' four cooling pools are the
6 largest in the United States, and represent one of the
7 greatest risks at nuclear plants because they are so
8 overcrowded with so much highly irradiated material.
9 Remember while flooding and risk of leakage threatens
10 our vital drinking water supplies, we must also be
11 concerned about water loss from earthquakes, dropping
12 of fuel casks, aircraft impact, accidental fires, and
13 explosions. Any and all of these threats could easily
14 lead to an irradiated fuel fire.

15 Everyone agrees there's no argument that a
16 radiological release from a pool fire could dwarf that
17 of a nuclear meltdown, so how far away is safe? Ten
18 miles is the industry standard, but our own U.S.
19 Government sets the distance for Americans in Japan at
20 least 50 miles away.

21 Just imagine trying to conduct an
22 evacuation under real emergency conditions like those
23 we've seen in other countries. Emergency planning has
24 not been advanced over the years and must be expanded
25 from 10 to 50 miles. State and local governments are

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1 responsible for all emergency response outside of
2 nuclear plant gates. Outside the gates is where the
3 industry's responsibility ends.

4 Keep nuclear waste onsite where it is
5 created. As soon as it leaves the nuclear plant
6 property, then whose responsibility is it? Is that
7 why the industry wants to move irradiated nuclear
8 waste around and cloud the issue of who pays the bill
9 when an accident occurs?

10 I agree with the Blue Ridge Environmental
11 Defense League who says, "If you make it and profit by
12 it, then you keep it. If you can't maintain it, then
13 stop making it." Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right. Thank you
16 very much. And Juan, thank you. And then Deb Arnason
17 and Lee Causey.

18 MR. ABENDAÑO: Howdy, my name is Juan
19 Abendaño. I'm an electrical engineer. I'm a graduate
20 from Texas A&M University. I've been in the industry
21 for over six and a half years, and I never thought I'd
22 be in nuclear power. My sophomore summer in college I
23 was presented with the opportunity to intern at a
24 nuclear power plant in Texas. I took that
25 opportunity, and day in and day out I saw how people

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1 work at the nuclear power plant. They are so safety
2 conscious, it's ingrained in their mind.

3 You see, they have daughters, sons,
4 mothers and fathers, grandfathers; they have
5 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and each day
6 when I asked them what makes you work here? They
7 said, you know, I'm concerned about the future of my
8 kids and their kids. And by me working here, I can
9 guarantee that things are done right, safely,
10 efficiently, and that's why I'm here. And that is why
11 I'm in the nuclear industry.

12 I'm looking for my kids in the future. I
13 want them to be safe, and that's why I work in the
14 industry. You know that 104 nuclear power plants have
15 been running safely for the past 40 years? For those
16 40 years, we have safely stored spent fuel onsite.
17 You can take all that spent fuel or used fuel, if you
18 will, and stack it end to end on a football field.
19 From end to end about 20 feet high, that's all the
20 waste we have.

21 Now, we also have the technology to
22 recycle. We can take that and diminish it down
23 several times over, so we have that technology. So,
24 do you think we can safely store now, in the past, now
25 and in the future? You're darned right we can. And

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1 this is why I'm also in the industry. I'm looking to
2 keep that new technology coming. As an electrical
3 engineer, I want to contribute to that technology, to
4 that safeness of our industry.

5 I implore you guys to go out and look at
6 the facts, look at the facts of what is actually going
7 on in the nuclear industry. I implore you to look for
8 yourselves, look to other people who are in the
9 industry, and you'll find out the real truth. We're a
10 safe industry. We've safely stored our fuel in the
11 past, today, and in the future. And I implore the NRC
12 to pass the GEIS as proposed. Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Juan. And
15 this is Deb, Deb Arnason.

16 MS. ARNASON: Hi, I'm Deb Arnason. And
17 just to start this off with something I hadn't planned
18 to say, and thank you Juan, but it occurs to me that
19 everyone in favor of nuclear energy and these Generic
20 Waste rules has a job in the industry. I'm going to
21 quote you from Upton Sinclair, I think. "The surest
22 way to keep a man in ignorance is if his job depends
23 on him not knowing." Okay, anyway.

24 Okay. I have zero confidence in the
25 Nuclear Regulatory Commission to address the risks of

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1 nuclear waste disposal near my home here on the North
2 Carolina/South Carolina border. I have been studying
3 the nuclear waste situation for the past 20 years,
4 having lived in the shadow of nuclear energy plants
5 both here in North Carolina and previously in Florida,
6 and also being made to pay for them advance, even if
7 they don't come on line. Now, that's my own added.

8 I have attended conferences to deal with
9 this issue and have heard former government employees
10 say that this area of the Southern U.S., at least a
11 five-state radius, has been referred to as a nuclear
12 sacrifice zone. I wonder if you ever heard that.
13 I've heard it several times.

14 After Fukushima and in the light of Yucca
15 Mountain not being licensed, which I think is a good
16 thing, I am unwilling to add nuclear fuel to the
17 radioactive fires by permitting either; one, more
18 costly nuclear power plants generating more nuclear
19 waste; or, two, any vague rules being applied to the
20 centuries long storage of hazardous nuclear waste.

21 Personally, I believe the current waste
22 must be safely stored in place and hardened, and that
23 no new waste be generated until and unless there is a
24 reliable way to deal with the existing waste. Solar,
25 wind, and geothermal energy are quite feasible to

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1 become our primary energy sources according to the
2 Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner, John
3 Wellinghoff. We should be following Germany's lead to
4 convert to renewable sources by 2020.

5 Okay. All NRC licensing, planning, and
6 permitting should be directed towards the phase out of
7 nuclear energy, and existing nuclear waste storage
8 safety. Then you can change your name to the
9 Renewables Regulatory Commission, the RRC, and you can
10 all keep your jobs.

11 Okay. I was going to stop with that, but
12 I have to add a joke. I can't leave it on such a
13 heavy, depressing spot. So, what do you call a solar
14 energy spill? A sunrise. And what do you call a
15 solar energy waste? A sunset, gone in half a day, not
16 half a millennium. Thank you.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Deb. And Lee,
18 this is Lee Causey, and we're going to take two more,
19 and then we're going to take a little break. You've
20 been a wonderful community, and we'll just take a
21 short break, 10 minutes, and then we're going to come
22 back and finish up. And we should be done by 11:00.
23 And Jean Larson and Laura Sorenson, we're going to
24 hear after Lee.

25 MR. CAUSEY: Thank you for hanging around.

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1 My name is Lee Causey. I am a mechanical engineer.
2 I work for Duke Energy, and I'm here tonight as a
3 member of the North American Young Generation of
4 Nuclear. And it sounds like many people came here to
5 talk, and I appreciate that. I actually came here to
6 listen today, and many of you were nice enough to stop
7 by our NAYGN table right outside and offer some great
8 comments. And I appreciate that, but first let me
9 start off with returning to the Environmental Impact
10 Statement.

11 I will briefly say that I do endorse the
12 NRC's Environmental Impact Statement, and I worked at
13 a number of nuclear plants now. I've been in the
14 business for five years, and I have complete
15 confidence in the NRC to continue to provide robust,
16 safe, and reliable regulatory oversight and rules for
17 our industry that includes the storage of nuclear fuel
18 waste. However, I do feel that there are a couple of
19 points that were made that deserve to be reiterated
20 that everyone here can share.

21 The first one is, all of us agree there is
22 a huge problem with nuclear waste. I've heard the
23 number 70,000 and 80,000 tons used today. The number
24 I had before I came here was 70,000. That is a
25 significant amount of waste, and we do not have a

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1 great long-term plan about how to deal with this. It
2 is not part of the short-term solution provided in the
3 Environmental Impact Statement we have before us.

4 I think we can also agree that we need a
5 plan. Even if you decide to end all nuclear
6 immediately, or keep nuclear going forever, this is a
7 problem we're going to face, and we will need a
8 solution for it. So, what do you do?

9 As I mentioned earlier, I have complete
10 confidence in the NRC. I have worked under the
11 regulations for five years now, and really, it's a
12 marvel in the same way that you -- I'll skip a little
13 bit. Thank you for the warning.

14 I think that we should focus our energy on
15 solving this large problem we have before us. I
16 recommend to the NRC that they continue to review and
17 take the insight of the Blue Ribbon Commission report,
18 and I hope that you will continue to review and look
19 into new nuclear technology as it develops new
20 facilities, and pursue active licensing and active
21 regulations to make sure we continue to operate things
22 safely.

23 I think both sides can agree that we need
24 to solve this problem, and I think we need to look for
25 solutions from industry, and I wish you the best of

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1 luck. I will continue to stay in this industry as
2 long as I can under your guidance. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
5 Lee. Thank you. And is this Jean? Okay. And then
6 we're going to go to Laura Sorenson.

7 MS. LARSON: Good evening. My name is
8 Jean Larson. I live in Sandy Mush, North Carolina.
9 It's a mountain farming community with rich soil,
10 woods; pristine beauty. We live by the seasons; we
11 plant, we harvest, we return nutrients to the earth to
12 insure an ongoing abundance. We know the fields, the
13 woods; we know the wild animals that live there and
14 where they live. Some families have been living in
15 this and farming in Sandy Mush continuously from the
16 time that their ancestors got a land grant from the
17 king in the 1700s.

18 We know our neighbors. We watch out for
19 each other. We help each other in the fields during
20 storms, when someone is sick. We share when we have
21 an abundance of fruit or vegetables. We are a
22 community; a generous and a happy community.

23 Imagine our surprise, or bewilderment to
24 learn in the 1980s of a proposal to turn this pristine
25 community into a nuclear waste depository. Not

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1 with us this far, so I will give that to you all.

2 In our area, we face major water issues.
3 The draft GEIS does not address water safety issues as
4 reactor site-specific, and does not include the
5 necessary data collection needed to take a realistic
6 look at our situation. Here are only a few examples.

7 The nuclear power stations Catawba and
8 McGuire give us four nuclear reactors located on
9 drinking water reservoirs within 20 miles of downtown
10 Charlotte. They are the largest water users on the
11 Catawba River, a river that has been ranked the fourth
12 most stressed river in the United States by the Union
13 of Concerned Scientists, and made the Southern
14 Environmental Law Center's list of the top ten most
15 endangered places in the southeast. Other reports
16 have quoted by 2040 there will not be enough water in
17 the Catawba River to meet all the water demands. Most
18 people don't realize that more water is used to
19 generate power for their home than is directly used in
20 a household.

21 The Oconee Nuclear Station shut down
22 October 24th due to water issues. This plant faces
23 serious dam issues, and has had 14 high-level
24 violations since 2000. For those of you who don't
25 know, that's a heck of a lot. It took an NRC whistle

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1 blower for Duke and the NRC to do anything about it.
2 That doesn't give me confidence. And the proposed
3 W.S. Lee Nuclear Plant in Gaffney; they have to really
4 compensate for the small Broad River. That dries up
5 in the summer. You can just walk across it. Yet,
6 Duke and the NRC think it's okay to just build 20
7 miles downstream in Cliffside, then down to the south
8 you've got three reactors at V.C. Summer and
9 Jenkinsville.

10 We want you to have the same logic as the
11 court and say we're not going to license this plant.
12 We don't want any more nuclear power. So, for the
13 sake of timing, my point is our waters; they're not
14 going to keep up with this.

15 According to the Government Accountability
16 Office, the amount of spent storage fuel onsite at
17 commercial nuclear reactors will increase by 2,000
18 metric tons a year, doubling to about 140 metric tons
19 before it can be moved offsite because storage at
20 disposal facilities may take decades to develop. Then
21 with the centralized and permanent disposal, 15 to 40
22 years before they get ready for that.

23 We are kicking the can down the road. As
24 a grandma, I'm pleading for the 6,000 generations that
25 will be stuck with this horrible handmade substance.

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1 Do you ever sit down and think about the children of
2 Fukushima? I do. I sit there and cry. I can't
3 imagine being the mother of any of these children that
4 are affected by it, so when industry stands up here
5 and tells me it's safe, and industry of the United
6 States built those reactors, it really makes me angry.
7 It's hurtful, and it's embarrassing.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: And I'm going to have
9 to ask you to finish up.

10 MS. SORENSON: Yes, I'm done. So, anyway,
11 I say to you, you should try sitting down and
12 contemplating these kids, try crying. It brings a
13 little blood up to your brain. Maybe that will open
14 your mind.

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right, thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. We're going to
18 take a break for about seven minutes or so. Is that
19 okay, seven? And then we're going to come back with
20 Ellen Thomas, Brita Larsen Clark, Denise Lee, and
21 James Hennen, and James Little. So, seven to ten
22 minutes.

23 (Whereupon, the proceedings went off the
24 record at 10:08:57 p.m., and went back on the record
25 at 10:18:47 p.m.)

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1 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, everybody.
2 We're going to get started again. And we're going to
3 try to give some consideration to the people who are
4 going to be boarding a bus soon. Okay? So we're
5 going to try to get them on first. And Ed Stein? And
6 I know Ed is here somewhere. There he is. Ed, please
7 join us. Then we're going to go to Larkin Diem and
8 Claire Hanrahan and Carol Gantt. This is Ed. Ed, go
9 ahead.

10 MR. STEIN: Thank you.

11 I don't have any titles. I am just a
12 working person. I am not extremely educated. I do
13 follow history a little bit. I make an allusion to
14 the Third Reich in this. And I very nearly lost my
15 nerve to speak, but after hearing previous speakers, I
16 realized that, although we are all breathing the same
17 air in this room, we are living in two very different
18 worlds. The allusion is to an institutionalized and
19 unquestioning mindset. It is not a personal insult to
20 anyone here.

21 Let me mention a few names from history:
22 HMS Titanic; the Halifax Harbor explosion; the airship
23 Hindenburg; the Texas City dock explosion; two world
24 wars; Three Mile Island; Bhopal, India; Chernobyl;
25 Challenger and Discovery explosions; and Fukushima.

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1 All of these tragic events represent human failures
2 interacting with the advanced technologies of their
3 time. In hindsight, most were avoidable but for
4 misplaced confidence in the technology, human error,
5 and bad luck.

6 The faithful adherence of nuclear power
7 and weaponry in myopic and self-serving fashion expect
8 us to embrace this deadly and unforgiving technology
9 with the same cultish enthusiasm that they have
10 lavished on it at taxpayers' expense for four
11 generations now.

12 We're expected to ignore its history of
13 destruction, deceit, and death and accept a legacy of
14 future horrors that nearly defy comprehension. Stuck
15 with a waste product that is practically infinite in
16 its toxicity to all living things, the industry
17 continues to dodge accountability for its internal
18 storage and has manipulated legislation to avoid
19 liability.

20 Negligence and hubris are components of
21 the human condition. These are red flags to rational
22 people and indicate a level of cult-like faith and
23 perverted altruism, perhaps not seen since national
24 socialism and eugenics marched across Europe, an
25 offense comparison to some, but adherence of both

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1 faiths are firm in the conviction that they are on a
2 near sacred mission, ultimately benefitting humanity.

3 We defeated the first, and we can defeat the second.

4 We can't undo the Pandora's box of nuclear fusion,
5 but we have the right to not subsidize keeping its lid
6 propped open.

7 No confidence. No more permits. No more
8 faith-based science. Let the high priest of the
9 nuclear temples go live in the steel and concrete
10 vaults with the existing waste so as to commune with
11 their god. Every dollar they seek to extract from us
12 to propagate their faith is a dollar taken from non-
13 lethal energy development. Every step they force our
14 societies to take on their march to a nuclear future
15 is a step to the obliteration of a living world. They
16 don't have the right.

17 And, for some irony here, the security
18 about transporting nuclear waste mentions crashing
19 into high-speed concrete barriers, water immersion,
20 30-foot drop, severe impact, extreme heat. The last
21 20 years we have been using depleted uranium,
22 artillery, and tank rounds in a part of the world
23 where we are despised.

24 Let's take a 10 to 20-foot piece of steel
25 pipe of a matching diameter or caliber. Let's

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1 improvise a breach in it. Let's put one of those
2 depleted uranium rounds in there with a charge. Let's
3 have an improvised firing mechanism, and you have
4 created an improvised recoilless rifle. And it can
5 penetrate any steel and concrete building or shipping
6 cask because that is what those rounds were made to
7 do. So there is the security.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you.
9 Thank you, Ed.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Larkin?

12 MS. DIEM: Hey, all. My name is Larkin
13 Diem. And today I am here to speak up for what I
14 believe to be an under-represented population. I am
15 here to represent all the anomalous creatures out
16 there that support and thrive off of nuclear waste.
17 If our nation was ever to abandon the nuclear power
18 that has so faithfully supplied us with the precious
19 energy that nourishes our comforts and warms our
20 microwaveable dinners, we might be allowing the one-
21 eyed, one-horned, flying purple people eaters to slip
22 into extinction forever.

23 There have also been claims amongst world
24 renowned cryptozoologists that the endangered and
25 extremely rare chupacabra may also perish without

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1 nuclear waste, along with our heroic population of
2 mutant vigilante superheroes. Oh, the tragedy.

3 Of course, these creatures will most
4 likely be able to survive at a dwindling rate for the
5 next millennium off our current radioactive waste, but
6 we have to think ahead for future generations of
7 mutants and vigilante superheroes. Increasing our
8 demand for nuclear energy is perhaps the only viable
9 solution to their dwindling population and the rapidly
10 increasing humanoid population.

11 Now, I understand there is some concern
12 for the health of non-mutant normies out there. I
13 believe the repetitive exposure of radiation in
14 smaller doses has extremely protective benefits. So,
15 remember, visit your dentist, radiologist, and local
16 airport scanner as much as possible. And for the
17 nuclear family with lower income, who would not be
18 able to afford such frequent visits to a professional
19 administrator of small-scale radiation, a trip to the
20 ocean would be an apt substitute.

21 Thank you for your time and consideration.

22 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
23 Larkin. Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Claire?

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1 MS. HANRAHAN: Yes.

2 MODERATOR CAMERON: And then Carol.

3 MS. HANRAHAN: Hello, everyone. I am an
4 executive director of my own 65 years. I live in
5 Asheville, North Carolina at the nuclear crossroads,
6 in the western mountains, in atomic Appalachia, where
7 the deadly twins of nuclear weapons and nuclear power
8 collide. I was raised in Tennessee, a nuclear waste
9 sacrifice zone, where it is buried in landfills,
10 burned in incinerators. The South is a sacrifice
11 zone.

12 I am here to raise my voice as an elder, a
13 grandmother, and a conscious person, a part of this
14 sacred Earth. And, with all due respect, I have no
15 confidence in the NRC to regulate this dangerous
16 industry. I have no faith in your so-called Generic
17 EIS. Waste confidence for hundreds of thousands of
18 years? This is a room full of high-paid, career,
19 corporate true believers in an industry subsidized by
20 corporate welfare.

21 And to you workers there all in your red
22 t-shirts and other uniforms, you know the EPA has
23 drastically reduced standards for radiation
24 protection. So beware. What they tell you is safe is
25 not necessarily safe. There is no safe level of

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1 radiation. We know this. It's more waste and less
2 protection.

3 So stop producing this waste, hardened
4 onsite storage for those 70,000 tons. An industry,
5 this industry, is itself one that continues to produce
6 poisons. You perhaps are the real terrorists.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

10 And this is Carol. Then we're going to go
11 to Eric, Ellen Thomas, and T.J.

12 MS. GANTT: My name is Carol Gantt, and I
13 am here to speak for myself and my neighbors, who were
14 unable to attend. I am deeply concerned that our
15 community is continuing to create more toxic high-
16 level nuclear waste every day.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Can you get closer,
18 please, Carol, to the mike?

19 MS. GANTT: Is that better?

20 (Whereupon, there was a chorus of "Yes.")

21 MS. GANTT: When we have no means to
22 dispose of it in a safe and functional way, it is so
23 toxic that exposure for a short period of time can
24 kill. I cannot see the reason we are continuing to
25 create this waste when we have viable, renewable

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1 alternatives.

2 Nuclear energy cannot be called clean
3 energy with its waste issues. Consider the dangers of
4 Fukushima with no solution in sight and for over two
5 and a half years, radioactive elements have been
6 polluting the air and the ocean and affecting many
7 people, animals, plants, and this Earth.

8 There are so many problems with nuclear
9 waste I cannot address all of them in the time I have
10 to speak. So I will talk about consolidating the
11 waste around the country at temporary sites with a
12 plan to move to a permanent storage facility.

13 As of 2010, nuclear power plants have
14 already generated 70,000 tons of spent fuel. The
15 industry is moving towards new fuel types, such as MOX
16 and high-burnup fuels, which are more radioactive,
17 dangerous, thermally hot, and difficult to store and
18 transport. Again I will say we have no way to deal
19 with high-level nuclear waste.

20 To say a consolidated storage area is the
21 answer just creates more problems. The prospect of
22 transporting this waste across our country by rail,
23 boats, and trucks is frightening. The American
24 Transportation Research Institute, headquartered in
25 Arlington, Virginia, is part of the American Trucking

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1 Association's federation and a 501(c)(3) not-for-
2 profit research organization.

3 They published a report May 2013, which
4 stated for the year 2010 there were 35,000 large
5 trucks involved in crashes in the United States. If
6 .001 percent of the accidents are trucks transporting
7 high-level nuclear waste, that would be 35 a year.
8 The potential damage caused by just one truck
9 transporting high-level nuclear waste involved in a
10 worst case scenario accident with the container
11 cracking and possible fire and the waste spilling and
12 contaminating our land, our streams, innocent people
13 and animals in the area, and those sitting in the
14 traffic caused by the accident could be deadly and
15 render the area uninhabitable for decades.

16 With all the talent and expertise in our
17 country, we could be looking for ways to protect the
18 people and the environment by focusing on renewable
19 energy sources, rather than continuing with an energy
20 source that creates toxic waste that kills and
21 destroys.

22 Thank you.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
24 Carol.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR CAMERON: Eric Blevins, Ellen
2 Thomas, T.J. Amos. Then we're going to go to Jim
3 Hennen, Nicholas Wood, and William Murphy. This is
4 Eric Blevins.

5 MR. BLEVINS: Hello. My name is Eric
6 Blevins. I was born in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
7 Hopefully most of you all know the significance of
8 that. Now I live on the Cumberland Plateau in
9 Tennessee, not too far from the Watts Bar Nuclear
10 Reactor, the last reactor completed in this country.

11 They were going to build two there, but
12 they abandoned one because they went so far over
13 budget, which is pretty common with this industry.
14 And currently at that reactor, they are making tritium
15 and using it to maintain the stockpile of U.S. nuclear
16 weapons, which is really shameful when they should be
17 destroying those. And the tritium is getting into the
18 water of the Tennessee River and affecting that
19 ecosystem as well. And they're currently trying to
20 finish that reactor that they abandoned so many years
21 ago. The Tennessee Valley Authority is. It's one of
22 the sites where they are constructing a new reactor.

23 And there's no safe way to store this.
24 Obviously, there is radioactive material that gets out
25 in any way that they store it. So it needs to stop

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1 being made. And storing it onsite in the dry cask is
2 not safe, but it's a lot less dangerous than
3 transporting it on our roads to go store it somewhere
4 else.

5 In Tennessee, they have these electronic
6 signs over the highway that show many roadway
7 fatalities we have had, and it's over 800 this year.
8 So there's no reason to think it's safe to be
9 transporting this stuff. There will be accidents
10 inevitably. And, even without accidents, you know,
11 the radioactive elements are getting through the
12 containment structures that they're transporting it
13 in. Some of these elements are created for nuclear
14 efficiency get through steel and concrete.

15 And, according to the NRC, the EPA, and
16 the National Academy of Sciences, there is no safe
17 dose of radiation. So we need to stop making it since
18 we don't know how to store it without getting it in
19 the environment. And, even if we stored it deep
20 underground, that is the environment, too. And that
21 stuff has a way of coming to the surface. And some of
22 these elements are hazardous for millions of years.
23 And the geology changes over that period of time. And
24 we don't know what is going to happen to those areas
25 that we're storing it in. So we need to keep it on

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1 the surface, where we can keep an eye on it and try to
2 maintain it as best we can.

3 What else do I want to say? Also, I just
4 wanted to bring up the fact that, according to the
5 National Academy of Sciences data, a female body of
6 people and children are more impacted by doses of
7 radiation than other folks are. So perhaps they
8 should have more of a say in what is being done with
9 this stuff.

10 And I don't think the Environmental Impact
11 Statement -- I haven't read the whole thing,
12 obviously, but I am sure it addresses uranium mining
13 and how that is related to this. And a lot of that
14 has gone on indigenous land in this country, and they
15 want to do more of that. And folks have been talking
16 about what a good record the industry has, but I don't
17 know if folks remember Three Mile Island or the
18 largest release of radioactive material in the
19 country's history, which also was in '79 in the Puerco
20 River on indigenous territory.

21 And I guess I am out of time, but one more
22 thing to the NRC. Whether you are pretending to be
23 confident that you know how to safely deal with this
24 stuff or you really feel confident, you just need to
25 stop it.

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1 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right.

2 (Applause.)

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Eric.

4 This is Ellen and then T.J.

5 MS. THOMAS: Hi. I'm Ellen Thomas. I'm
6 from western North Carolina. And I'm here, in part,
7 to speak on behalf of a 93-year-old woman, activist,
8 who has been working to stop the nuclear craziness for
9 over 40 years, Ruth Thomas, who couldn't make it
10 tonight.

11 We agree with those who ask the Nuclear
12 Regulatory Commission to stop building new nuclear
13 facilities, stop extending the licenses of existing
14 nuclear power plants, don't expose the nuclear workers
15 and the public by transporting nuclear waste until and
16 unless there is a final resting place.

17 At present, hardened onsite storage seems
18 to be the only solution, even though it obviously
19 cannot be the final answer, for safe storage that must
20 last for thousands of years. This seems to indicate
21 that the only sane approach would be to stop producing
22 nuclear waste. In 70 years of producing nuclear
23 weapons and nuclear energy, we have found no way to
24 dispose of the radioactive waste created that will not
25 continue to threaten life on Earth.

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1 Attorneys and their consultants, some of
2 whom brought the lawsuit against the NRC which led to
3 this hearing today, back up their criticism with
4 numerous examples of the NRC's failure to comply with
5 federal laws, faulty decision-making practices, and
6 poor operating histories. The NRC fails to abide by
7 the intent, language, and provisions of the Atomic
8 Energy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

9 Throughout the scoping process for the EIS
10 and the meetings and teleconferences which followed,
11 we observed that the inputs from the public interest
12 viewpoint rarely were acknowledged as being useful or
13 of value to those working on developing a nuclear
14 waste plan, even recommendations and evidence offered
15 by knowledgeable scientists. On the other hand,
16 Nuclear Energy Institute and other nuclear industry
17 representatives received favorable acceptance.

18 The NRC ignores the differences between
19 reactors in terms of age, type, site location,
20 ownership, history of problems, accidents, violations.

21 These differences should prohibit the NRC from taking
22 a generic approach to a spent nuclear fuel storage
23 proposal. Each reactor should be considered in terms
24 of its own problems.

25 And then the NRC has failed and continues

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1 to fail to recognize the long-term damaging effects of
2 radiation from numerous sources. We encourage the NRC
3 decision-makers this time to give full consideration
4 to all of the inherent negative aspects of adding more
5 radiation to an environment already forever polluted
6 by the dropping and testing of nuclear weapons --

7 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. I'm going to
8 have to ask you to finish up now.

9 MS. THOMAS: Okay.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay?

11 MS. THOMAS: This is my last sentence.

12 -- routine or accidental releases from
13 nuclear power plants and weapons complexes; enrichment
14 facilities; and supporting operations; and the release
15 of radiation during and after hurricanes, tsunamis,
16 earthquakes, and other natural disasters.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay.

18 MS. THOMAS: Remember Fukushima.

19 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

20 MS. THOMAS: And please pay close
21 attention to what everybody has to say and not just
22 the people in the industry.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. AMOS: Okay. My name is T.J. Amos. I

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1 am here from Asheville. I am trained as a therapist.

2 And so one of the things I find fascinating is when I
3 people rationalizing and minimalizing. And that is
4 exactly what I heard when I heard the comment that
5 waste management is only a small part of what you guys
6 deal with. It is a pretty big part of it.

7 There are many voices talking about
8 reasons for concern about nuclear waste. They are
9 good reasons. But I am a mother. What caught my
10 attention is our hubris that we could make nuclear
11 waste safe for 10,000 years. We are thinking the
12 unthinkable.

13 This is not the first time the hubris of
14 humans has promised the impossible. Do you remember
15 the date April 14th, 1912? That is when the
16 unsinkable Titanic sank. For that hubris, 1,500
17 people paid with their lives.

18 The World Trade Center was completed in
19 1987. The builders believed the buildings would never
20 be destroyed. That hubris is now called a failure of
21 imagination. Two thousand, nine hundred, and seventy-
22 seven people paid with their lives. But that is just
23 a number. My number is one. My fiancé Jonathan died
24 in the South Tower that day.

25 Fukushima is a cautionary tale. But yet,

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1 we have failed to heed its warnings. The
2 investigation of the Fukushima disaster found that the
3 regulatory bodies NISA and NSC and the government body
4 promoting the nuclear power industry METI failed,
5 failed to correctly develop the most basic safety
6 requirements, failed to assess the probability of
7 damage, failed to adequately prepare for containing
8 collateral damage, failed to develop a realistic
9 evacuation plan. The official investigation
10 determined those failures.

11 Today at this hearing, we are considering
12 the promise of safety by a) a repository available by
13 2050; b) institutional control forevermore; c)
14 replacing storage containers every 100 years
15 forevermore. Have we learned nothing from the hubris
16 of humans in history? Are we promising the
17 impossible? Do we dare?

18 Yes, we need energy, but at what cost? We
19 are asking future generations to store the unstorable
20 for thousands of years. We are asking for our
21 children's children to bear this burden. What will
22 they think of us?

23 I am asking that our hubris not put our
24 children at risk.

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR CAMERON: Brita and then James.

3 Okay? Brita?

4 MS. LARSEN CLARK: Hello. My name is
5 Brita Larsen Clark. I am a mom and a grandmother, an
6 educator, and a PSR member, but I am standing here
7 today to remind the NRC commissioners of their role to
8 be independent regulators of the nuclear power
9 industry.

10 There is a concern that the NRC
11 commissioners come to the NRC with close ties to the
12 industry. And I would like to ask the commissioners
13 to keep in mind the problem of a confirmation bias.

14 We all tend to value, perhaps overvalue,
15 data that confirms our particular point of view and to
16 give less weight to other positions that would oppose
17 our point of view. That's understandable. I do it,
18 too. We all do. But the NRC commissioners have a
19 grave responsibility to have an evenhanded approach
20 and to take that very seriously. They must have the
21 courage to fulfill that role. They have been
22 entrusted by the nation to regulate the nuclear power
23 industry in an independent and fair-minded manner.
24 They must take confirmation bias into consideration.

25 I know this is very hard, but I implore

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1 the commissioners to look anew at the challenging
2 issue of nuclear waste. There are no good solutions.
3 But please try to look at the issue with clear eyes.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

7 James Hennen? Then we are going to go to
8 Nicholas Wood and William Murphy.

9 MR. HENNEN: Good evening. My name is
10 Jimmy Hennen, and I am the United States Affairs Chair
11 for the North American Young Generation Nuclear. I
12 would like to start by thanking the Commission for the
13 opportunity to offer my comments here tonight and for
14 all of my peers for sticking with it on their own
15 time. Thank you.

16 Just one month after earning my mechanical
17 engineering degree from Clemson University, I moved to
18 Charlotte and began my career at Westinghouse Electric
19 Company analyzing piping systems in our AP1000
20 pressurized water reactor. It was a significant shift
21 from school. You see, previously, excelling in my
22 senior design project when finding an ideal solution
23 to a problem, guided by quantitative criteria based on
24 things like material properties, process requirements,
25 and economics; professionally, the first thing I had

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1 to learn was that in the nuclear industry safety takes
2 ultimate importance over everything. This meant that
3 quality was not a variable to be balanced against cost
4 or schedule but, rather, an absolute that must always
5 be maintained. Very quickly, this fundamental
6 requirement of the overall nuclear safety culture
7 became engrained in every decision I made, technical
8 or not.

9 This evolution is not unique to engineers
10 beginning their careers in the nuclear industry. From
11 accountants to human resource professionals to
12 technical and craft labor, everyone is personally
13 responsible for nuclear safety. And accepting direct
14 accountability for such a monumental responsibility is
15 the entry fee to work in the industry. Every
16 generation of workers, from the men and women near the
17 end of their careers to the millennials just starting
18 hours, upholding the nuclear safety culture cultivates
19 a tremendous sense of purpose, upon which we can all
20 work together. After all, there is no other industry
21 that depends so heavily on the success of everybody,
22 direct competitors included.

23 As a result, our professional and
24 technical organizations enjoy remarkable participation
25 from a diverse and intelligent labor pool. One such

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1 organization is the North American Young Generation
2 Nuclear, a group of over 10,000 young professionals
3 who are passionate about ensuring the myriad benefits
4 of safe, responsible application of nuclear science
5 and technology are enjoyed by generations to come.

6 While the draft Generic Environmental
7 Impact Statement adequately addresses the concerns
8 expressed by members of the public, I would like to
9 point out one additional consideration: the positive
10 impact of continued efforts of NAYGN members. Through
11 our annual drawing contests, we proactively educate
12 grade schoolers on how nuclear power plants work and
13 actively demystify radiation. At our professional
14 development conference every year in D.C., we send
15 almost 300 young professionals through the halls of
16 Congress to educate policy-makers and speak with their
17 staff.

18 Finally, I understand that there may still
19 be lingering doubts about the viability of my
20 industry's plans for long-term storage of spent
21 nuclear fuel. So I want to close by reminding the
22 Commission and members of the public that the future
23 leaders of the nuclear industry have taken personal
24 responsibility to guarantee that our society continues
25 to enjoy incredible benefits of safe, responsible

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1 application of nuclear science and technology. And we
2 will do whatever it takes to achieve this humanitarian
3 goal.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks, Jimmy. Thank
7 you.

8 Nicholas? And then William Murphy.

9 MR. WOOD: Thank you everyone. And thank
10 you to the NRC staff for being here with us so late.
11 This is quite an important issue, as you can see, and
12 very controversial. And there are a lot of deep
13 feelings about it.

14 My name is Nick Wood. I came here from
15 Durham. I am Outreach Director for NC WARN, though I
16 will say I am speaking today as a human being and
17 someone who grew up next to the majestic Columbia
18 River and a toxic waste dump, the Hanford nuclear
19 reservation. The nuclear industry both created my
20 hometown, inspired my high school. We were the
21 Bombers with a mushroom cloud coming up. But,
22 fortunately for me, the cleanup, the continuous
23 cleanup, the billions of dollars coming in to clean up
24 that mess, is what put food on my table growing up.

25 And I have to say I am concerned about our

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1 collective future, and I am concerned about people
2 being blinded by dollar signs because there is a lot
3 of money in ignorance and waste and toxics.

4 I stand here in opposition along with many
5 from around the country, though I will say we are a
6 bit less coordinated than the industry folks, who seek
7 to profit from the continuation of this. I also stand
8 here in Charlotte, the home of Duke Energy, the
9 world's largest utility and a big purveyor of nuclear
10 power that costs billions and billions of dollars of
11 ratepayer money, of which every dollar of which is not
12 invested in renewables that are the way to the future.

13 The nuclear industry is a dinosaur. And
14 every dollar spent is again a dollar not spent on
15 renewable energy that will save our planet and
16 ourselves. There is a great big ball of fire out
17 there. Why don't we try to harness it? Why don't we
18 put that effort and that brilliance and that education
19 and that training into saving this world because
20 nuclear and natural gas, these are not a bridge to the
21 future? They are a gangplank.

22 And I will close by saying this. I
23 remember growing up the story of Br'er Rabbit. And
24 when I hear an industry saying, "Please regulate us.
25 This will take care of it," I get a little suspicious.

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1 So I say, in closing, look out for us, not the
2 corporations. We know you work hard. We know folks
3 care. But look out for us because this is our future.
4 This is our children's future. This is our
5 inheritance. And we need not spoil it for future
6 generations.

7 Thank you.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Nick.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: And William Murphy?

11 MR. MURPHY: Good evening. My name is
12 William Murphy. I am a professional engineer licensed
13 in the State of South Carolina. And for the last nine
14 years, I have been employed in the field of spent
15 nuclear fuel storage. I also live within half an hour
16 of a licensed nuclear facility and the inventory of
17 spent nuclear fuel stored therein.

18 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's draft
19 Generic Environmental Impact Statement adequately
20 addresses the items identified in the remanding of the
21 2010 Waste Confidence rulemaking by the United States
22 Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Court.

23 The draft Generic Environmental Impact
24 Statement thoroughly examines across multiple time
25 frames the environmental and societal impacts of

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1 storing spent fuel at licensed facilities. The draft
2 Generic EIS considers not only the effects of time but
3 the possibility for such adverse conditions as seismic
4 events, extreme weather, and hostile human action.

5 These studies have been conducted in a
6 conservative and bounding manner to ensure that the
7 generic study is applicable to facilities nationwide.

8 For those of you who actually read it and, well, a
9 side comment, I am wondering how many of you actually
10 did -- it actually lists all the facilities in the
11 country that have stored spent nuclear fuel and it
12 covers that list.

13 The specific dependencies on spent nuclear
14 fuel leaks and fires mandated by the Court of Appeals
15 ruling enforces the communities' understanding that,
16 even under the worst of conditions, the likelihood of
17 spent fuel stored at commercial facilities
18 contributing adversely to a severe event is extremely
19 small. While tragic and avoidable, the event at
20 Fukushima Daiichi examined objectively and
21 dispassionately further demonstrates the robustness
22 and relative passivity of spent fuel storage. The
23 fuel stored in dry cask systems was unaffected while
24 the fuel in the spent fuel pools, even the unit 4 pool
25 of greatest concern, emerged from the event without

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1 contributing to offsite releases whatsoever.

2 The conclusions of the draft Environmental
3 Impact Statement most of all, to me, serve to confirm
4 what I have personally observed and contributed to
5 that storage of spent nuclear fuel has been and will
6 be conducted with public health and safety as an
7 overriding objective. I encourage the regulator and
8 our government as a whole to resolve the Waste
9 Confidence remanding promptly and, further, to fulfill
10 statutory federal obligations to relieve individual
11 states of its unnecessary burden and establish a staff
12 and secure permanent repository for the nation's
13 inventory of spent fuel.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,
17 William.

18 Lauren Jones and Matt Cagnetta and then
19 Susan Krotz. This is Lauren.

20 MS. JONES: Good evening, everyone. My
21 name is Lauren Jones. And I am here today
22 representing the North American Young Generation
23 Nuclear and AREVA. I also recently moved from
24 Lynchburg, Virginia to the Charlotte area and chose to
25 live within the plant exclusion zone for McGuire

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1 Nuclear Power Plant. You may wonder why I did that.
2 I grew up about 20 minutes away from Fermi Nuclear
3 Power Plant and survived my entire life with no issue.

4 And I really do love nuclear power and understand the
5 science behind it.

6 But I am not coming up here as a technical
7 expert. I am up here today as a communicator, as
8 somebody who for her life has chosen to be a
9 professional communicator. Happenstance brought me
10 into the nuclear industry, and I have chosen to stay
11 there for the past eight years.

12 Throughout my eight-year career in the
13 nuclear industry, I have continued to gain respect for
14 commercial nuclear power as a safe, clean, and
15 reliable option for baseload electricity generation.
16 The nation's operating nuclear power plants provide
17 the majority of our nation's free electricity 24 hours
18 a day, 7 days a week. You can't say that about solar,
19 and you can't say that about wind. Overall,
20 approximately 20 percent of the electricity produced
21 in the United States comes from nuclear power, and
22 about 32 percent of electricity produced in North
23 Carolina comes from nuclear power.

24 My biggest concern early on in my career
25 was not about how the power was generated or how

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1 safely it was generated but, rather, what happens to
2 the waste. That's the hardest thing for people to
3 understand. As I have learned and observed, used
4 nuclear fuel has been stored safely in used fuel pools
5 and dry storage systems worldwide for many, many
6 years. I visited nuclear power plants, and I have
7 seen the rigor with which it is stored and secured.

8 I have worn a dosimeter near a fuel
9 exchange pool and watched closely as the minimal
10 reading stayed stable. There was no creep up, down,
11 or otherwise. It stayed fully stable. While onsite
12 storage is a safe option, more permanent options, such
13 as a geologic disposal, are necessary.

14 I would like to thank you, the Nuclear
15 Regulatory Commission, for undertaking this task and
16 allowing for public comment on this issue. I support
17 the NRC's conclusion that used fuel can be stored
18 safely and without significant environmental effects
19 and ask the NRC to complete this rulemaking in a
20 timely fashion.

21 Nuclear power is necessary for sustaining
22 clean, affordable production of electricity in the
23 United States. And I ask you today to support the
24 continued licensing and relicensing of nuclear power
25 plants and independent spent fuel storage and

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1 solutions.

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Lauren.

4 (Applause.)

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. We're going to
6 Matt and then Susan and then Denise Lee.

7 MR. CAGNETTA: Good evening, everybody. I
8 see it's still evening, not quite morning yet. First
9 off, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to
10 speak and thank you to the NRC for continuing their
11 culture of public involvement and transparency with
12 respect to nuclear issues.

13 It really is a great thing for all of us
14 to be here to talk and to listen today. I imagine
15 that we all trust our teachers to teach our children
16 and our doctors to heal our illness. Seldom do we get
17 the opportunity to challenge how they do our jobs.
18 And it is a great thing to be able to keep us
19 engineers accountable.

20 My name is Matt Cagnetta. And I have
21 spent the last five years of my career as a technical
22 professional in the nuclear industry as an advocate
23 for nuclear power. I am an AREVA employee and a NAYGN
24 chapter officer and chemical engineer. As you noticed
25 already, I am here with several of my colleagues.

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1 Before me, my grandfather dedicated 50
2 years of his career as an engineer in the nuclear
3 industry, a university dean, and a proponent of
4 nuclear. We are just a few of the thousands of
5 skilled employees of the industry that make sure that
6 the lights in your homes go on and stay on every day.

7 The fact remains that nuclear energy
8 accounts for a fifth of the United States generating
9 capability. And it is the most appropriate route to
10 clean, safe, reliable, and carbon emission-free
11 baseload energy with a proven track record of
12 performance, despite the many misconceptions which
13 abound, many of which I heard this evening.

14 I assert that this country cannot sustain
15 its energy needs, reduce its greenhouse gas emissions
16 by any significant factor, and continue to secure the
17 low cost of electricity that consumers and industries
18 enjoy without drawing from nuclear power.

19 The many available facts in my personal
20 experience in regards to nuclear design, licensing,
21 maintenance, research and development, and advocacy
22 bolster my conclusions. It is certain that the
23 storage of used nuclear fuel is an issue that the
24 industry needs to address. However, it is not an
25 insurmountable handicap.

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1 Countries such as France and Finland have
2 been successfully dealing with the byproducts of
3 nuclear generation for decades with fuel recycling,
4 onsite storage, and the development of geologic
5 repositories. The technology, the professionals, and
6 the support of the industry as a whole exist to put
7 into action a strategy for the disposition of used
8 nuclear fuel.

9 In the United States, used nuclear fuel
10 has been safely and securely stored on plant sites for
11 some time. And I support the NRC's evaluations in
12 this regard.

13 Contrary to what some may believe, fuel
14 storage casks are much more than 55-gallon steel
15 drums. They are excruciatingly engineered pieces of
16 equipment weighing 100 tons and designed to shield the
17 population from radiation and the fuel from any number
18 of natural and manmade threats, including floods,
19 earthquakes, and ordnance.

20 In sum, nuclear power is a viable, safe,
21 clean, and reliable method for supplying America's
22 renewable baseload energy needs for the foreseeable
23 future and cannot be discounted from the nation's
24 energy mix. As soon as Washington begins to care more
25 about the welfare of this country than its elections,

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1 we can begin to tackle realistic timelines for solving
2 used nuclear fuel disposal issues with existing
3 technology and personnel.

4 Despite our industry's frustrations, we
5 are committed to keeping the lights on. And I am
6 confident in the NRC's ability to objectively evaluate
7 options with respect to used nuclear fuel storage and
8 safety.

9 I look forward to the issuance of the
10 Waste Confidence Rule. Thank you.

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. We have Susan,
14 Denise, and then we're going to go to Jim Little.

15 MS. KROTZ: Good evening. My name is
16 Susan Krotz. I am a volunteer with the Blue Ridge
17 Environmental Defense League, and I live in North
18 Carolina.

19 I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
20 not to adopt the ruling. I oppose the EIS. I call
21 this into question for a variety of reasons. Granted,
22 a highly marketed belief is what we have heard tonight
23 from the nuclear industry. I have not heard a single
24 citizen say, "I want nuclear power. I think nuclear
25 power is safe." This is all industry speak. And it's

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1 disturbing. I would like the record to note that
2 there were no citizens here supporting nuclear power
3 other than those who are inuring to a financial
4 benefit from nuclear power.

5 We have known since the '80s that the cost
6 to decommission nuclear power plants is astronomical.

7 However, the industry compartmentalizes safety. They
8 are looking at the technical process as safety when,
9 in reality, the toxic waste is not safe. It can never
10 be safe.

11 Fukushima is expected to cost \$14 billion
12 to clean up, to whatever extent that might be
13 possible, and to take 40 years.

14 I would like the Nuclear Regulatory
15 Commission to listen to the physicians and scientists
16 who spoke here tonight and take their views into
17 consideration. They are not inuring to a financial
18 benefit. They don't have a stake in this other than
19 for humanity.

20 Other costs that are not considered. For
21 example, Rev. Utley, who spoke here tonight, helped a
22 community relocate from Savannah with federal HUD
23 dollars. The people got new homes because they
24 couldn't live there anymore. These costs are not
25 being calculated into nuclear power.

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1 I think that there is sufficient
2 controversy to stop producing nuclear waste and rule
3 against this proposal. Thank you.

4 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Now we're going to
7 hear from Denise.

8 MS. LEE: Hi. My name is Denise Lee. I
9 am a grandmother, a mother, and I'm pissed.

10 [Laughter.]

11 MS. LEE: I can't believe after the
12 accident at Fukushima that we are even considering
13 this. Shame on you. This is awful. Shame on anybody
14 that believes that making future generations have to
15 pay for our stupidity -- that's a shame. We should
16 all be ashamed.

17 You know, homeland security needs to add
18 another terrorist to their list. It is called the
19 nuclear regulatory industry. They are terrorists.
20 They are forcing us to accept something that is going
21 to destroy our environment, our home, and our
22 generations.

23 The only answer for energy is safe,
24 renewable energy sources and conservation. Everything
25 that is being done for this industry is because of

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1 greed. That is what is running this. It is greed.
2 Shame on you.

3 It's oxymoron to even put "nuclear" and
4 the word "safe" in the same sentence. It's
5 ridiculous. We should not license any more nuclear
6 power plants. We need to stop any relicensing. And
7 if we don't, it is your fault. It is your fault. Our
8 children are going to pay for this. We should be
9 ashamed if this goes through.

10 I will at least say that I tried. And
11 many other good people did, too. You know, I can't
12 wait until the next commercial from the coal industry.

13 Tonight all you kept hearing was "Oh, we're carbon-
14 free." The new commercial for the coal industry is
15 going to be "We're nuclear-free." It's the same dirty
16 industrial gimmick. Go to something that's safe,
17 reliable, and nonpolluting.

18 What does it take? Another Fukushima? If
19 this industry continues on the road that they're on,
20 we will have an accident. We will have an accident.
21 Please stop this process.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MODERATOR CAMERON: Jim?

25 MR. LITTLE: Good evening. I'm Jim

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1 Little. I've been in the nuclear business for 40
2 years. I retired in December. I am currently the
3 Chairman of the Carolinas Nuclear Cluster, which is an
4 industry association representing about 54 companies,
5 employing about 21,000 people in the Carolinas that's
6 devoted to the safe and economical operation of
7 nuclear energy here in the Carolinas region.

8 One of the things that we do in the
9 nuclear business is we always focus on safety. And
10 that's, first and foremost, the most important thing
11 that we do.

12 We have a tremendous responsibility. A
13 lot of speakers have spoken about the responsibility
14 that we have. We recognize that the nuclear energy
15 industry is a socioeconomic organization. It provides
16 benefit to people, safe, reliable energy supply that
17 drives our economy, makes our lives safe, makes our
18 economic well-being possible.

19 I appreciate the NRC's process to allow
20 comment on the Generic EIS and the proposed
21 rulemaking. It is probably one of the best-run
22 processes I know in the federal government. I think
23 there are three important things with respect to the
24 rulemaking and the Generic EIS that are very important
25 here. I do endorse the Generic EIS and the treatment

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1 of that. I found the EIS to be very thoroughly
2 written in the proposed rulemaking, but I would say
3 three things are really important for the NRC. First
4 is to make sure that we are removing uncertainty that
5 the analysis is thorough, it's well-done, and the
6 analyses and the EIS and the incorporation of comments
7 from members of the public and industry are
8 incorporated into that comment process, which is one
9 of the events that we're doing tonight.

10 The second thing is providing
11 transparency. I think this rulemaking process does
12 allow for that. It is very unique. It's a well-
13 administered process by the NRC. And I think it
14 allows all of the public, even the members of the
15 opposition, the opportunity to provide their input and
16 comment.

17 And I think, lastly, the most important
18 thing is meeting commitments. So I think we have got
19 to resolve this issue in a timely basis to remove not
20 only that uncertainty but provide some surety going
21 forward in this process so we can address these issues
22 in a safe, dependable, and economic fashion going
23 forward. And that includes not only addressing Waste
24 Confidence but arriving at a final decision to allow
25 the licensing and review of the licensing for the

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1 federal repositories authorized by Congress that we
2 all know is Yucca Mountain. So I think that is first
3 and foremost.

4 In my 40 years, I have worked in over 50
5 nuclear plants in 12 different countries around the
6 world. I have been involved in not only design of
7 reactors. I have lived near them. I have operated
8 nuclear installations, treated high-level nuclear
9 waste in a glass safely at the West Valley
10 demonstration project, where I was the CEO of the
11 company that did that very successfully with the
12 Department of Energy. And I have lived near nuclear
13 facilities. I lived less than 8 miles away from the
14 Catawba nuclear plant, where I was the reactor
15 designer for that facility over 40 years ago. So I
16 have a lot of confidence in that technology and the
17 ability to run safely.

18 But I think first and foremost is that I
19 think the industry is one where transparency and even
20 listening to members of the opposition allows us I
21 think that integrity to be able to address comments
22 from wherever in addressing those things. So I think
23 the ability to get that transparency and that dialogue
24 is important. So I welcome the opportunity to provide
25 these comments as I also welcome the opportunity to

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1 listen to the various views tonight.

2 Thank you.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
4 Jim.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR CAMERON: Yes. It's late in the
7 evening. And this really doesn't have much
8 application tonight, but, as you all go forward in
9 these types of meetings and on this particular issue,
10 I know there is a lot of emotion, sometimes anger
11 about this, but it just strikes me as wrong to say
12 that the nuclear industry is a terrorist. Okay?

13 MS. KROTZ: I disagree.

14 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Well, you can
15 disagree, but I would just think that maybe we could
16 go on with this discussion, this debate without
17 characterizing either side like that. Okay?

18 MS. KROTZ: They characterize us all of
19 the time.

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Well, I just
21 wanted to say that. And, like I said, it doesn't have
22 much application tonight.

23 Let's go to Victor Fregonese, Brian
24 Kasher, William Gupton. And is Gordy still here? And
25 Gordy. Thank you for your patience. Victor?

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1 MR. FREGONESE: Right here. I sneaked
2 behind you.

3 Good evening. My name is Vic Fregonese.
4 I am responsible for safety and quality in the U.S.
5 for AREVA. And I thank the NRC for the opportunity to
6 comment tonight on the proposed EIS, especially here
7 in Charlotte, North Carolina. We have had a great
8 turnout. And I see there are some really strong-
9 willed people here tonight that are staying until the
10 end to hear me speak maybe. So thanks for hanging out
11 and listening to my comments.

12 First of all, I do support the conclusions
13 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as it relates
14 to the Generic EIS. It's a very important issue for
15 our industry to address and for our country to
16 address. It provides needed certainty in an industry
17 that provides a lot of reliable, safe, clean
18 generation. It provides a lot of jobs for our
19 citizens. And it is a vital part of our energy mix in
20 the United States. So I applaud the NRC process.

21 I do request the NRC to bring this to
22 closure and to continue these public meetings and get
23 the comments and the dialogue going but close the
24 issue and get it to the commissioners so we can make a
25 decision and move on. It is really important.

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1 I also am very interested in the NRC
2 bringing the Yucca Mountain license application back
3 into play with the Department of Energy. I think that
4 is another area where we need to get some traction to
5 get some motion, so would like to go on record to say
6 that we really need to do that. And as part of
7 getting the EIS approved, we also need to get the
8 license application process for nuclear plants and
9 spent fuel storage facilities moving again as well.

10 In terms of I think the nuclear power
11 industry and safety, it has been mentioned before, but
12 I would just like to mention that over the past 30
13 years, I have lived in and around nuclear power
14 plants. I, like some previous speakers, was involved
15 in the design and construction startup operation and
16 now on the service side, maintenance of nuclear
17 plants. And there has been one thing I have noticed
18 about all of the people I have worked with over the
19 years. And that is a commitment to safety. It has
20 been unwavering, and it has been a consistent theme
21 with the nuclear professionals I have worked with.
22 And if you look at the industry record with storing
23 and transporting of spent fuel or used fuel, we have a
24 demonstrated record of doing that not only here in the
25 United States but also around the world.

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1 So once again, in closing, I support the
2 conclusions of the EIS. And I look forward to the NRC
3 bringing this to closure. And I thank you for the
4 opportunity to comment tonight.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. KASHER: Good evening. The American
8 people have little basis to find confidence in both
9 the Generic Environmental Impact Statement and the
10 concept of nuclear waste storage outside the regulated
11 community, as evidenced by the commenters and comments
12 made at this evening's session.

13 The abundance of alternative energy
14 sources available today, including but not limited to
15 wind, solar, and hydrogen, enhance the United States'
16 ability to compete globally while not imposing nuclear
17 waste burdens on our progeny. The United States
18 should be a global leader shifting resources away from
19 the existing nuclear infrastructure and moving forward
20 together, leading industry to cleaner, safer energy
21 potentials, creating jobs for those brilliant people
22 in the industry along the way.

23 The U.S. government committed via the
24 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to have a national
25 repository for nuclear waste operational by '98.

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1 However, the U.S. has consistently missed critical
2 milestones for solving the nuclear waste storage
3 problem.

4 American taxpayers have paid the nuclear
5 waste fund over \$32 billion. Yet, the United States
6 has failed the American people and the world in the
7 matter of nuclear waste. The American people do not
8 accept the generic shortcut approach to environmental
9 impact statements as equivalent to individual
10 environmental impact statements for each license
11 application. The Generic Environmental Impact
12 Statement fails to provide detailed information
13 concerning significant environmental impacts of
14 proposed individual reactors. I'm speaking to a
15 matter of public policy.

16 Though less burdensome on the bureaucracy,
17 the generic approach does not consider regional
18 differences of scattered nuclear waste storage sites,
19 preventing acquisition of complete and thorough
20 information for the NRC to base key nuclear license
21 decisions. And, more important, the GEIS process
22 creates a swim upstream against the bureaucracy for
23 communities with regional concerns that it becomes
24 very difficult for a community to express their
25 individual concerns.

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1 The NRC can start by changing this one
2 simple aspect of the nuclear energy framework by
3 disavowing Waste Confidence in the shortcut generic
4 approach to U.S. nuclear policy.

5 A poem, "Nuclear waste, acid rain,
6 chemical waste, it's in our brains. It's in our
7 cities. It's in our streams. It's in our futures.
8 It's in our dreams. Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and
9 Fukushima held well-attended safety meetings the day
10 each of them blew. Doctors, engineers, physicists,
11 the whole crew. So what does this mean to the safety
12 of me and you? Carbon impacts all industries, and
13 nuke is not exempt. Kind of makes me wonder if this
14 rule might have been written in a state with legalized
15 hemp. Nuclear waste, acid rain, chemical waste. It's
16 in our brains. Only you and you and you, only we, the
17 people, can effect change. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us
18 to everything, there is a season."

19 Thank you. I'm Brian Kasher.

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Brian.
21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: William? Then we're
24 going to go to Gordy and then to Courtney.

25 MR. GUPTON: Good evening. My name is

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1 Bill Gupton. My comments tonight do not reflect my
2 association with any environmental group, although I
3 am a leader with a local environmental organization as
4 a volunteer leader.

5 It is very interesting that our comments
6 tonight are being held in Charlotte, home of Duke
7 Energy. I am a long-term resident of Charlotte. I
8 grew up in the western part of the county. For about
9 five years, I lived in the shadow of McGuire Nuclear
10 Plant. There was a warning siren just down the street
11 from me. If I lived there now, I would know how to
12 evacuate if there was a nuclear emergency. I would be
13 eligible for potassium iodide tablets.

14 I now live in Charlotte, 14 and 17 miles
15 from 4 nuclear reactors. I am not having that same
16 level of protection if there is a nuclear accident at
17 one of those 4 nuclear reactors. This needs to be
18 addressed by the NRC.

19 If future nuclear plants are approved,
20 then there will be between 8 and 10 nuclear reactors
21 surrounding the City of Charlotte within 70 miles, 10
22 nuclear reactors surrounding the City of Charlotte
23 within 70 miles. A generic Waste Confidence Rule that
24 doesn't take into consideration these particular
25 circumstances of our city, of our environment is not

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1 acceptable. We need to address that.

2 I am opposed to the Yucca Mountain
3 solution. I believe that the waste should be as soon
4 as possible transferred from the waste pools to
5 hardened structures onsite. It is our understanding
6 that the NRC looks favorably at the granite in the
7 North Carolina mountains as a potential storage site.

8 And that is completely unacceptable. And we will do
9 everything in our power to prevent that from being a
10 solution to this nuclear waste issue.

11 I also would like to say that we are very
12 supportive of the cessation of licensing of new
13 nuclear power plants until this waste issue is
14 resolved in an acceptable manner. We are opposed to
15 the relicensing or the licensing of Lee Nuclear Power
16 Plant proposed in Gaffney, South Carolina. We are
17 opposed to the Construction Work in Progress
18 regulations which would give Duke Energy an interest-
19 free loan to build their nuclear power plants.

20 We thank the NRC for hearing our comments
21 tonight, but we strongly oppose the draft comments of
22 the EIS statement. Thank you.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Bill.

24 Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR CAMERON: Gordy?

2 MR. VYTLACIL: Good evening, everyone. My
3 name is Gordon Vytlacil. I am here tonight
4 representing Generation mPower, GmP, headquartered
5 here in Charlotte. Our company is designing,
6 licensing, and deploying the B&W's mPower small
7 modular reactor in the U.S. and abroad.

8 On behalf of GmP, I wanted to express our
9 thanks for the opportunity to provide comments on the
10 proposed Waste Confidence Rule. GmP considers it one
11 of the hallmarks of the U.S. regulatory process that
12 the NRC embraces the concept of stakeholder input.
13 And the Waste Confidence rulemaking has been no
14 exception.

15 GmP's mission is the deployment of small
16 modular reactors. We believe that SMRs provide a
17 near-term option to address multiple needs, diversity
18 of fuel supply, replacement of aging fossil fleets
19 with a carbon-free option, and the ability to
20 stabilize small and segmented grids addressing post-
21 Fukushima safety requirements with significant
22 improvements in safety margins and providing access to
23 safe, carbon-free generation options at sites never
24 before envisioned, all with reasonable investment and
25 project risks.

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1 We also provide electric generation and
2 process heat options not available previously in
3 emerging markets and are working to provide options
4 worldwide for near-term, low-risk carbon-free power.
5 This mission is in support of a strategic need, both
6 here in the U.S. and abroad, to transition electricity
7 generation to cleaner, long-term power. Approval of
8 our design by the NRC is considered by many to be
9 prerequisite to deployment in other countries. And a
10 very important aspect of moving forward in any area of
11 nuclear licensing is regulatory stability.

12 The deployment of SMRs in the U.S. is no
13 exception. Accordingly, timely resolution to the
14 issue of Waste Confidence plays an important part of
15 meeting the strategic need. And we join the rest of
16 the industry in strongly supporting making this
17 rulemaking a high priority. Not only is resumption of
18 ongoing licensing activities essential for long-term
19 power-planning decisions, but it is also important to
20 reestablish confidence in the nation's ability to
21 conduct new licensing proceedings.

22 Thank you again for the opportunity to
23 provide comments.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you,

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1 Gordy.

2 And we have Courtney and next Joe DeVoe
3 and Mr. Robinson.

4 MS. HANSON: Hi. My name is Courtney
5 Hanson. I am Director of Organizing at Georgia
6 Women's Action for New Directions. We want to thank
7 the NRC for holding these hearings and for sticking it
8 out so late.

9 At Georgia WAND, we empower women and men
10 across the entire state to act politically to reduce
11 militarism and violence and redirect excessive
12 military spending towards unmet human and
13 environmental needs. And a really important part of
14 this work is working with communities that live near
15 Plant Vogtle, which, as you know, is the construction
16 site for the first two new nuclear reactors in the
17 U.S. in about three decades; and also the Savannah
18 River site, which is a Superfund toxic nuclear waste
19 facility that is -- well, waste and weapons facility
20 that is struggling to clean up its tanks and is also
21 slated to start producing mixed oxide plutonium fuel
22 for nuclear power reactors.

23 These communities are dealing with a long
24 legacy of nuclear waste, of contamination, of
25 environmental racism, and economic depression. So in

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1 Georgia, we really have a lot at stake when it comes
2 to this Waste Confidence Rule and also the draft
3 Environmental Impact Statement, which I can assure you
4 we have read in full. And this is why we have stood
5 up together to oppose expansion at Vogtle and also to
6 oppose consolidated interim storage at Savannah River
7 site.

8 We know that the only thing we can really
9 have confidence in, unfortunately, is that nuclear
10 waste is a threat to public health. And it will
11 remain a threat to public health for thousands of
12 years. We know that there is no safe dose of
13 radiation for human beings. So the best thing we can
14 do now is to stop producing nuclear waste by halting
15 new reactor licenses and construction of nuclear
16 reactors. And in the meantime, we have got to get our
17 nuclear waste arsenal stored as safely as possible.
18 And the best way to do that is to get it out of the
19 spent fuel pools and into hardened onsite storage.

20 The bottom line is that science has not
21 found a safe way to store nuclear waste. It hasn't
22 found a facility that can hold the amount of waste we
23 have for the amount of time that we need to safeguard
24 it. But what it has succeeded in doing is finding a
25 way to meet all of our energy needs, carbon-free and

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1 nuclear-free, without anyone living in a cave or
2 giving up their iPhone, without polluting our
3 communities, and without leaving future generations a
4 huge burden of nuclear waste. So we advocate that the
5 NRC obey the court's order to not license any new
6 reactors, not just now but indefinitely.

7 Thanks.

8 (Applause.)

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Courtney.

10 And Joe? And then we have David Robinson
11 and Aaron Newlander and Andrew James. And if anybody
12 signed in but you haven't heard your name called, just
13 tell me and we'll make sure we get you out there.
14 Joe?

15 MR. DEVOE: Thank you.

16 Good evening. My name is Joe DeVoe. I am
17 a responsible engineer for the plant modifications
18 group in AREVA.

19 I would like to start by highlighting that
20 I am actually not very surprised that you have only
21 seen people from companies in the nuclear industry
22 speaking in favor of it tonight. This is a
23 sophisticated technology. It is very typical for
24 someone to have years of college education, even more
25 years of experience to fully understand it, let alone

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1 to speak to it confidently. And it is simply
2 something that many laymen probably wouldn't be able
3 to do.

4 So I am going to begin. There are
5 thousands of Americans that work in the nuclear
6 industry. Each and every one of them work diligently
7 to ensure that nuclear power and the mechanisms to
8 transport and store spent nuclear fuel are designed to
9 the highest quality to ensure the safety of the
10 public.

11 Of those thousands of people, many of
12 which work at nuclear facilities, work at engineering
13 firms like I do, even those that are regulating the
14 industry, all of us have families. I am married with
15 a three-month-old baby girl with the world ahead of
16 her. And I have a very large extended family,
17 probably larger than most. I can assure you that
18 every action taken, every decision that is made is
19 done so not only with the safety of our employees and
20 the public at large in mind, but also the safety of
21 our loved ones for generations to come. I guarantee
22 that sincerely.

23 Outside of the decisions that we carefully
24 make, there are extensive quality requirements that we
25 must meet. These requirements are heavily regulated

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1 to ensure a safe and accurate design. There is also a
2 major emphasis on human performance, tools that we
3 practice daily to prevent human error.

4 Safety and human performance are how we at
5 AREVA start every meeting. It is an essential part of
6 how we do business. It is always a forethought. It
7 is never an afterthought. From the regulators, to
8 those who design and build, to those who operate the
9 facilities, the safety culture of the nuclear industry
10 is a fabric that is woven into each entity involved.
11 Using operational experience from commercial reactors
12 worldwide, our safety culture has been refined to
13 provide safeguards that result in the safe and
14 reliable use of the most efficient and CO2-free form
15 of energy available: nuclear power.

16 Our safety record for protecting the
17 public and our proven ability to safely harness
18 nuclear power is why I support the Waste Confidence
19 Rule and have the utmost confidence in this industry's
20 ability to safely store used nuclear fuel in both
21 spent nuclear fuel and dry storage.

22 Thank you.

23 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Joe.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: And David? And we did

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1 surface someone we didn't have a card for: Steve
2 Rundle.

3 MR. ROBINSON: Good evening. I'm David
4 Robinson. Thank you for having the stamina to
5 persevere and stay here as long as we are tonight.

6 I was born in Charlotte. I live in
7 Charlotte. I am involved with the Sierra Club. And I
8 also serve on Mecklenburg County's Waste Management
9 Advisory Board, although what I am saying tonight, I
10 am just speaking as a normal person.

11 I have a wife, a son, and two cats. And
12 let me ask a question of the audience. Do I strike
13 you as a terrorist or as a likely suspect to be a
14 terrorist?

15 (Whereupon, there was a chorus of "No.")

16 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you. I don't
17 consider myself a terrorist either. But let me tell
18 you, every time I go to the airport, what I have to do
19 is take off my shoes, my belt, my coat. I have to go
20 through an X-ray machine. My luggage has to be X-
21 rayed because the TSA operates on a principle that can
22 be called a precautionary principle. I have to prove
23 that I'm not going to blow up the airplane before I
24 can get on the airplane. They don't care if I don't
25 look like a terrorist, if I don't sound like a

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1 terrorist. They have to convince themselves that I am
2 not one.

3 As I read the draft EIS statement, I am
4 afraid that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with its
5 judgments about so many of these activities and
6 possible resource areas having a small risk; the word
7 "small" is used throughout this document. It is used
8 because of their determination with the probability
9 that the occurrence of any single accident taking
10 place is small.

11 If the NRC were running the TSA, I am
12 afraid that we would not have machines. We would not
13 have X-ray machines because the risk of any single
14 person being a terrorist is very small. Therefore,
15 let's not check them. Let's not test them. So I am
16 afraid that the NRC is really not stepping up to its
17 responsibilities with respect to these issues.

18 If you look up here, you see the lower
19 part of the NRC logo, "Protecting people and the
20 environment." I think that logo needs to be changed
21 to "Protecting people and the environment for all
22 time" because the wastes that we're talking about
23 tonight are going to last a very, very long time. And
24 the NRC has to accept its responsibilities for
25 overseeing it. It is the precursor to the

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1 organization of -- how do you say? -- the high
2 priesthood that will be looking after nuclear waste
3 for hundreds of thousands of years. And I hope the
4 NRC will step up to its extreme responsibility in a
5 way that is not obvious from this document.

6 Thank you.

7 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
8 David.

9 Aaron?

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: Aaron Newlander and
12 then Steve Rundle. Aaron? Oh, okay. I guess Aaron
13 is not here. Then we're going to go to Steve.

14 MR. RUNDLE: All right. I get to be last
15 tonight. Thank you all for hanging out and being so
16 patient. Thanks to the NRC and everybody who is doing
17 such a great job here tonight.

18 My name is Steve Rundle. I am a small
19 business owner here in Charlotte. And I have just
20 come to speak briefly in opposition to what I see as a
21 one size fits all generic EIS for what we have is
22 really a variety of plants in a variety of locations,
23 a variety of environments. And I don't think you can
24 have a one size fits all solution or a one size fits
25 all environmental thing for that.

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1 But, you know, spread from coastlines to
2 mountains, you have a variety of natural things from
3 hurricanes, tsunamis, et cetera, that can be taken
4 into account for and can be engineered for. And we
5 have heard, you know, about all of the great
6 engineering that goes into these things. But what
7 worries me is what you can't see coming over the
8 horizon. With these timelines, you know, on the short
9 frame 60 years, mid frame 160 years, you know, you
10 really can't see a lot of things, you know, or plan
11 for a lot of things that are out there.

12 And when I think back 160 years, where
13 were we 160 years ago? I mean, you know, we were ten
14 years before the Civil War. I mean, Abe Lincoln
15 couldn't even see that coming in the mid-1850s. So
16 what worries me probably most of all is our current
17 focus on storage in pools, which are at risk from
18 really a lot of -- you know, we've heard terrorist.
19 We have heard natural disasters. And what I would
20 really encourage is moving, you know, spent fuel out
21 of the pools as soon as possible after the five years
22 to dry cask or dry container storage, just because it
23 is inherently safer.

24 And, you know, ultimately what I would
25 like to see is a move to a cleaner, safer technology

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1 in the long run because, you know, if a terrorist
2 shoots out the solar panels on my neighbor's house,
3 you know, it is only affecting my neighbor, but, you
4 know, if they undermine a major high-technology, you
5 know, pool, you know, we're all in trouble.

6 Thank you all for bearing with things
7 tonight.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,
9 Steve, very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR CAMERON: We do have one more
12 speaker. Our final speaker, I think, is Andrew James.
13 This is Andrew.

14 MR. JAMES: Thanks for that pressure,
15 Chip.

16 Thank you all for sticking it out here. I
17 truly thank you. I appreciate it.

18 My name is Andrew James. I am here on
19 behalf of NAYGN, like many colleagues before me. I
20 have degrees in nuclear engineering and business, and
21 I am very proud of 11 years in both the nuclear power
22 sector and in the broader energy sector.

23 Most importantly, though, my colleagues
24 and I are here as informed and engaged members of this
25 regional energy hub. I support the NRC's decision to

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1 generically revise 10 CFR 51.23. It's the most
2 efficient use of government resources, and it does
3 compromise its mission of ensuring safety. The staff
4 is also to be commended for their work on this draft
5 GEIS.

6 It's comprehensive, both in its effects
7 and its three large time frames considered,
8 particularly the inclusion of the indefinite storage
9 period, which is conservative, although obviously not
10 politically desirable. I think that the assumptions
11 of the GEIS are reasonable. The range of resource
12 areas, in effect, considered, are logically and
13 technically sound.

14 New U.S. plants and storage installations
15 will rely on this Waste Confidence ruling. Right now
16 worldwide there are about the equivalent of 35 plants
17 the size of McGuire Station on Lake Norman under
18 construction. About five percent of that is going on
19 domestically. We should lead the world in this
20 technology.

21 A few facts that have been stated but
22 we'll reiterate: Storage and transportation can be
23 done safely because they have been done safely for
24 decades. Geologic repositories can be done safely
25 because they are being done safely in France, Finland,

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1 among many other others. We have a logical, safe
2 solution on paper. We have simply temporarily lacked
3 the political will to enact it.

4 Diversity of fuel supply is a very good
5 thing. Regions have mixes of nuclear power, gas,
6 coal, and appropriate levels of renewables are among
7 the lowest cost in the country. That's a trend that
8 has continued for years. Growth in renewable
9 generation also is a good thing when it is done in a
10 controlled fashion, but it is not a panacea. The
11 error intermittency and the lack of reliability has
12 been a Achilles' heel in places like Germany, Spain,
13 and Ontario, where the dash to renewables has
14 increased the power prices and also had really
15 negligible impacts on CO2 there because of the backup
16 fossil you need because of the non-dispatchability.

17 In summary, my wife and I and our two
18 children live about two miles from McGuire Nuclear
19 Station on Lake Norman. And, as informed and educated
20 citizens, we have no qualms about that. Nuclear power
21 is essential to our power sector. And we support the
22 draft Environmental Impact Statement.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you,

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1 Andrew. And thank all of you.

2 And Carrie Safford is going to close out
3 the meeting for us. Do you want to use this?

4 MS. SAFFORD: Yes.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right. Deputy
6 Director.

7 MS. SAFFORD: I just wanted to give
8 everyone a thank you all for coming out tonight. And
9 those of us who have hung in, it's a thin crowd, but
10 thanks for being here. Thanks for traveling. I know
11 many of you -- many have left already -- have traveled
12 a long distance. So we appreciate your participation.

13 And a brief reminder that our public comment period
14 ends on December 20th. So thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter was concluded at
17 11:39 p.m.)

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