

STATEMENT OF BRADLEY R. CROWELL
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
June 8, 2022

Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to have been nominated by President Biden to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

And thank you, Senator Cortez Masto for the very kind introduction. Your confidence in me and support for my nomination is greatly appreciated.

It's hard for me to believe that 15 years have passed since I sat on the back bench of this hearing room as a young staff member for Senator Whitehouse during his first term in the Senate. Today I feel both comfort and a small amount of anxiety to be on this side of the dais and on the receiving end of the Senator's trademark glare over the rim of his glasses. I thank the Senator for his trust in me so many years ago and I look forward to any questions he may have for me today.

Most of all, I am grateful for the love and support of my family. My wife Rebecca could not be here with me today, as she is home with our 14-month-old daughter, Hazel. They are both watching today's proceedings from Nevada with my mother, Susan. And I know my father, Robert Crowell, who passed in late 2020, is looking down from above with pride. His lifelong commitment to public service instilled in me a similar devotion to advancing the public good that has guided me throughout my career and to this moment today.

Shortly after my wife and I first met, it occurred to me that both sides of our family have a unique story with respect to America's nuclear history.

On my side of the family, my father grew up in Tonopah, Nevada, just outside the former Nevada Test Site. As a youth during the 1950's, he would go with his brother to the edge of town to watch the above ground atomic tests conducted in the Nevada desert. Years later, during his 23-year career in the U.S. Navy, he would serve as the nuclear weapons officer on a U.S. Navy destroyer.

Meanwhile, my wife's family has deep roots throughout Pennsylvania. My mother-in-law gave birth to her fourth child just 10 days after evacuating from their home in Philadelphia following the partial meltdown at Three Mile Island. Given the uncertainty during the early days of that event, I appreciate her trademark abundance of caution to ensure the safety of her family – particularly given that I am now married to that fourth child, my wife, Rebecca.

Given this personal context, perhaps it's no surprise that my professional career has included work on both defense-related and civilian nuclear topics. As a career public servant, I have had the unique opportunity to address these issues at both the federal and state levels of government.

During my tenure as Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs at the Department of Energy, I gained invaluable experience managing the Department's relationship with Congress on topics including advanced nuclear reactor technologies, consent-based siting for spent nuclear fuel disposal, nuclear weapons modernization, and cleaning up America's Cold War-era environmental legacy. Notably, my time at DOE included events such as the 2011 Fukushima nuclear accident and the 2014 radioactive waste incident at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

At the state level, I have had the honor of leading one of Nevada's largest cabinet agencies for the past five and a half years – the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. I thank Governor Sisolak and former Governor Sandoval for their trust in me to lead an agency so integral to Nevada's identity, and for their formal support of my nomination. The Department serves as Nevada's primary state-level regulator for nearly all environment and natural resource topics – including hard-rock and critical minerals mining, hazardous and low-level radiological waste disposal, water rights, and land management, just to name a few.

At both levels of government during my career in public service, I have always prioritized the fundamental principles of balance, transparency, efficiency, and fact-based decision making as hallmarks for how a public agency should operate in all respects and to maintain integrity in the regulatory process. If confirmed by the Senate to serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I will strive to uphold these same principles.

The role of the NRC today is perhaps more important than at any point in the agency's history. The NRC has a pivotal role to play in responsibly overseeing our nation's operating nuclear reactors and decommissioning plants, while preparing to safely license and regulate the next generation of civil nuclear energy technologies.

If given the honor to serve on the Commission, I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners and the expert, professional NRC staff to embrace these challenges and succeed in our collective mission to regulate the safe civilian use of nuclear materials and power on behalf of the American people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to answering any questions you and other Committee members may have for me.