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EIS000448

13 OCT 26 1999 MR. DUSHAW: Good afternoon. My name is Jim
14 Dushaw. I'm the director of the utility department for the
15 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and I do
16 remember the winters of 1976, '77 and '78. At that time I 17
was hanging from a pole in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area 18
trying to keep going across the lines that I recognize what 19
it is and how people react when there is an energy shortage 20
as though freezing temperatures, 18, 20 below, gripped the 21
nation's heartland and stayed there for sometime as pipes
22 burst and people generally became uncomfortable.

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1 So, energy is something I am quite familiar
2 with. I am now director of the utility department for our
3 union. We appreciate the opportunity to comment at this
4 hearing. [We strongly believe and have believed that safe
5 nuclear energy is plainly vital to our country's energy mix 6
and not without a repository for storing used nuclear fuel, 7
we run the risk of losing a much needed energy resource.

8 Overall, over 70,000 union employees work in long-term good
9 paying jobs at some 103 operating nuclear power plants.

10 Now, without proper storage, without proper
11 storage facilities to use nuclear fuel, these nuclear plants,
12 as you heard, face the possibility, real possibility, of
13 closing down. If plants start closing down due to a lack of
14 spent fuel storage space, many unions will disappear and
15 consumers for no real compelling reason lose a real contender
16 for lower cost electricity than the newly competitive
17 electric supply industry.

18 In addition to 70,000 permanent jobs,
19 thousands of additional union employees are hired during each
20 fueling outage at the plants around the country. In order
21 for these jobs to continue it is obviously necessary for the
22 nuclear plants to continue operating. [Even if one plant is

1 forced to shut down because of lack of storage place,
2 hundreds, perhaps thousands, of jobs will be lost. It's
3 clear that this nation needs to have a place to put the fuel
4 to ensure continued operation of our nuclear power plants.

5 [Scientists have been studying Yucca Mountain
6 for more than a decade. This mountain is the most
7 extensively designed piece of property in the world. DOE's
8 viability assessment, which was released last year, shows
9 that based upon the scientific studies of Yucca Mountain thus
10 far there are no real show stoppers to continue forward with
11 the Environmental Impact Statement process. It clearly makes
12 sense that we should store the used nuclear fuel at one
13 centralized storage facility.]

14 [Fuel is currently stored at more than 150
15 long-term storage facilities in 41 states. According to the
16 Draft EIS, there is significantly more protection for the
17 American public and the environment if we have one central
18 federal repository. We should not pass this problem onto our
19 children and our grandchildren, especially since science has
20 proven that we can safely transport and store fuel at Yucca
21 Mountain.]

It is a fact that the spent nuclear fuel

1 being transported today is done so safely. We have already
2 had over 3,000 shipments of used nuclear fuel in our country.
3 Out of these 3,000 shipments, only eight accidents had
4 occurred, and no injuries or fatalities have occurred as a
5 result of any radiation leaks from transportation containers.

6 Our existing laws and regulations provide
7 for the safe loading, packaging, transportation and unloading
8 of all kinds of nuclear materials today. It's a fact of our
9 lives in modern society. It has been proven that this type
10 of cargo can be moved with the utmost safety. There's no
11 reason to believe that the continued transportation of
12 radioactive materials will be any less safe. Union workers
13 are justifiably proud of their safety record in transporting
14 radioactive cargo. Our federal government has a legal
15 obligation to dispose of the used fuel created by the
16 nation's electric utilities.

17 For 17 years, consumers of electricity,
18 including union workers and all of you, have paid more than
19 16 billion dollars into a federal trust fund to pay for the
20 disposal of used nuclear fuel. Only about six billion
21 dollars have been spent on the Yucca Mountain project. 22

MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds please.

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continued

1 MR. DUSHAW: Utilities customers have paid
2 this money to assure that the government is up to its
3 responsibility and begin managing the used fuel. The Draft
4 Environmental Impact Statement with its extensive scientific
5 study shows that Yucca Mountain is a suitable site. We have
6 proven historically that we can transport safely radioactive
7 cargos without harming American citizens or the environment,
8 and we must protect the many union jobs that depend on
9 continued operation of our nuclear power plants.

10 MR. LAWSON: Our next speaker is Chuck
11 Harple, to be followed by Vincent Panvini and Jack Edlow.