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17 MR. O'CONNELL: I am Brian
18 O'Connell with the National Association of
19 Regulatory Utility Commissioners. I am also an
20 engineer and I have my requisite engineer Quadrill
21 pad here where I have sketched out a few notes.
22 I wasn't planning to speak today, but I

1 listened to the earlier session and today's and I
1 continued on page 3
2 thought I would perhaps break protocol and
3 compliment the team.
4 I think the DOE has done quite a job at
5 providing a lot of information for us all to attempt
6 to understand, analyze and draw conclusions from. I
2 7 also want to compliment Mr. Lawson, the facilitator,
8 who has gone the extra mile in terms of running a
9 fair meeting, as far as I can see.
10 I went to a meeting in Atlanta where he
11 seemed to be presiding over a child care center for
12 a while there, and we also had poetry read to us and
13 other irrelevancies, from my point of view, and
14 today we had a Yoga priestess rearrange the
15 furniture here so we could all breathe more
16 effectively. I'm not sure what the point of that
17 is, but you forebeared through all of this and I
18 compliment you.
19 DOE has taken a lot of hits on the DEIS in
20 terms of its shortcomings, but I have prepared and
21 reviewed NEPA documents for over a 30-year federal
22 career, and I heard from one of our lawyers in the

1 Navy Department a few years ago, Brian, you need to
2 understand that all environmental impact statements
3 are infinitely perfectable. You can always make
4 them better.

1 continued on page 5

5 But you have provided much useful data and
6 it has been a very open process and dare we say not
7 characteristic of what we used to expect from the
8 DOE, so, once again, compliments to you in that
9 regard.

10 You are planning to hold 17 public
11 hearings. You have a 180-day public comment period,
3 12 and this certainly has provided lots of
13 information. A question arose earlier about why
14 aren't the other states, such as Illinois, in terms
15 of Chicago, being represented? I think the public
16 should be aware that each governor was sent their
17 own copy of the DEIS. And if I am a governor, I
18 haul in my team and I say what is this about and I
19 get my transportation person, my radiological safety
20 person, every known environmental health person in
21 and, just like Governor Bush's people here, review
22 this thing and get comments in to those people

3 continued

1 because this may affect our state. I presume that
2 is going on. That should be part of the process.
3 Many critics have cited your lack of data
4 and yet, as I understand the CEQ guidelines, they
5 suggest a good environmental impact statement ought
6 to be about, as a benchmark, 150 pages. You have
7 provided 1500 almost. So it is hard to imagine that
8 there is much missing.
9 A strategy does seem to be emerging from
10 opponents within Nevada, such as Senator Bryan, who
11 spoke earlier today and issued a press release you
12 should all know, so it will be in the morning
13 headlines in the Las Vegas papers, about a lack of
14 specificity in transportation, and I think some of
15 this is inclined to instill fear among the 44 other
16 states about the unknowns or, as Mr. Halstead, the
17 things DOE won't tell you.
18 Well, I think you have provided an
19 adequate analysis in terms of the generic
20 information from which each of those departments of
21 transportation -- in my state, the Commonwealth of
22 Virginia, I'm sure the DOT people are looking at

4 continued

1 that document, and they could very easily take the
2 worst-case approach and assume all 70,000 tons are
3 traveling through our infrastructure and analyze it
4 accordingly.

1 continued

5 I think your approach is sound. You have
6 given the overview and, as I understand it, in the
7 DEIS you plan for further environmental reviews as
8 specific routes are chosen by the states in
9 consultation with the federal government or the
10 reverse, as the case may be. I'm not fully familiar
11 with that process. So it is perhaps fitting that I
12 am supposed to be the last speaker. I do want to
13 compliment you all for a fine job.

1 continued

14 MR. LAWSON: Thank you. We do
15 have another speaker who had spoken previously who
16 would like to add to his comments, Mr. Halstead.