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1 MR. HOFFMAN: My name is R.J. Hoffman. I'm a certified health physicist who has worked with the Bureau of Radiation Safety for some 25 years. My comments will be very brief. But I would like to say that from my reading of the DEIS summary I find that DOE has done a very complete job of trying to evaluate potential risks to both the public, the workers and the like in both the handling of the waste at the facility and the transportation aspects.

2 And I do not perceive any significant risks to the population in the area of major concern usually associated with radiation. I see no significant impacts to the population over the next fifty or a hundred years. I can't say that I can perceive that there could not be a transportation accident where somebody would be physically injured, a truck blows a tire and somebody be killed on the highway. But those are the kinds of risks that we all assume every day just by getting in a car, and those risks would be no different than the risks associated with the truck carrying gasoline down the road or a truck carrying toilet paper or whatever.

So the transportation risks are not risks involving radiation, but there may be risks involving physical consequences. But like I said, they're no different than the risks of transporting anything else from automobiles to tractors.

3 And so I would encourage DOE to proceed with all speed that they can towards the completion of this facility. It's well known DOE is in arrears on accomplishing this, but -- they will be in arrears if they accept the waste, and about 12 years from now they will be in arrears by 14 years in completing the task that they were appointed to do by Congress. And I realize probably the shortcomings in meeting that time line are not strictly due to DOE, but also "whole" (phonetic) has some responsibility there, the political powers that be through about three or four presidential administrations, and congress for maybe not paying more attention to this issue.

There is a need. It will adversely affect our energy economy in our country if power plants are not soon relieved of the burden of having to hold on to spent fuel for extended periods of time. I hate to see those plants have to shut down not because they have reached the end of their lives in production of electricity, but because they simply had no place to get rid of its spent fuel.

So I appreciate the efforts of the DOE in this area. I would like to have seen them accelerated over the last decade. But I am confident that this facility can be built, fuel can be transported, and there are no significant impacts to the citizens of this country, and it is something that needs to be done.

Thank you.