

JAN 11 2000

EIS002140

MR. DARBY: Yeah. I worked out at the test site for a quite a while. I worked at Yucca Mountain for quite a while, but what I find interesting here is there probably isn't an undecided person in the room. Everybody here came with an opinion, I think, and you're either for it or you're against it, and I don't think too many minds are going to be changed by what's said here. As far as the five-minute rule, the first three or four speakers went on for close to fifteen minutes each, but whatever.

1 | I found when I worked out there, I worked on Yucca Mountain on the TBM tunnel boring machine for a year with the electrician on the graveyard shift. I found that if anything, the DOE goes overboard as far as safety, not underboard. I mean, they really do. | They -- that would take twenty minutes to explain.

2 | But one of the reasons it's a great spot is because there's so much -- it's so dry. We've got this huge overburden over where the waste is going to be deposited and then they have about a thousand feet before you get to the water table, and that's really why it was chosen. They looked all over the United States and they found one of the driest spots they could in the United States and that's how it was selected. |

3 | When we used to do the underground shots, the big underground shots, a couple days before the shots, the physicist would come in from Lawrence Livermore Labs and so forth, and one day I asked one of them. I said, "What is more environmentally dangerous: This encapsulated waste they're talking about sending to Yucca Mountain or the underground shots that we're doing?" and they thought it was a trick question because they weren't involved in the political atmosphere we have here. It's much more environmentally damaging to have underground shots, and we've had 800 of them out there. |

4 | Anyway, there's a lot of -- people keep on talking about jobs. Every time Steve Wynn opens a new hotel, he talks about the jobs. Most of them are -- you know, most of them are making beds and so forth. But that's fine. I'm glad those people have jobs and it's great. The jobs out at Yucca Mountain pay at least thousand dollars a week. |

5 | Worked on the coal fire powerhouse. Talk about environmentally damaging. My God. I mean; they turn off the scrubbers at night so they can go ahead and shoot that stuff into the air and nobody can see it. It's absolutely horrible what -- what coal fired powerhouses do to the environment. |

6 | Area 5. We're bringing in nuclear waste like crazy out there. I can remember working in Area 5 when certain shipments came in from submarines, so on and so forth and we couldn't even get near it. When the guys with guns would come out, we'd unload it and bury it in Area 5. It's been going on for years and years. This is -- shipping nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain is not a new thing. |

7 | Anyway, I think that if we leave this waste all over the United States and we give terrorists more targets. Put it in one spot, a safe spot if it proves to be safe. Check it, and if it proves to be safe, put it in one spot because as far as terrorists and so forth, it's better to have it in one spot than it is scattered all over, and Yucca Mountain is probably the best spot in the United States. |