



Beatrice Reilly  
09/05/2001 06:32 AM

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SEP 12 2001

To: Lani Fellows/YM/RWDOE@CRWMS  
cc:

Subject: FW: DOE Yucca Mtn. Meeting

Not A Federal Record

when you get a chance, please review. can we consider this a email letter to us and respond???

----- Forwarded by Beatrice Reilly/YM/RWDOE on 09/05/2001 06:32 AM -----

"Brown, Tamiko" <BROWNTY@nv.doe.gov> on 09/04/2001 12:20:37 PM



To: Bea Reilly <beatrice\_reilly@ymp.gov>, Colleen Curran/YM/RWDOE  
cc: "Brown, Tamiko" <BROWNTY@nv.doe.gov>, "Oar, Cheryl"  
<OARCA@nv.doe.gov>(bcc: Beatrice Reilly/YM/RWDOE)

Subject: FW: DOE Yucca Mtn. Meeting

Federal Record Status Not Determined

Comments for tomorrow's public meeting at 232 Energy Way.

Ta Ta

Tamiko Brown  
Employee Communications Specialist  
Phone: 702-295-2207  
Fax: 702-295-1859

-----Original Message-----

From: Ammowery@cs.com [mailto:Ammowery@cs.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2001 10:50 AM  
To: brownty@nv.doe.gov  
Subject: DOE Yucca Mtn. Meeting

Subj: Comments for 9/5 Sun Coast Mtg.  
Date: 8/23/01 10:30:28 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
From: Ammowery  
To: YMP]SR@ymp.gov

I am Dr. Alfred L. Mowery, DOE, retired. I spent many years in the Space Nuclear Projects Office at DOE in Germantown, MD. This included Voyager I & II, LES 8/9, Galileo and Cassini missions. We launched many kgs of 238Pu in spite of the intervenor flak. I was the safety manager for the Galileo mission.

Consider the following:

After seeing the rabble (professional?) protesters on TV Monday, I would limit questions to something like two sentences. Anything longer should be considered a "speech." All "speeches" should be preceded by a statement of qualifications. I am frequently disgusted by intervenors whose only "qualifications" are adeptness at specious arguments.

I have tried without success to get a copy of the video of the NRC PR "experiment" where they placed a spent fuel shipping container across a railroad track and ran a locomotive into it. Anyone with any engineering background could foretell the result, but the public should be impressed. It

should be shown a number of times on local TV news. Our modules containing the  $^{238}\text{Pu}$  fuel could withstand the fire from a cubic meter of burning solid propellant fuel while sitting on top. I feel sure that a spent fuel container could survive any conceivable fire without release. I'm also sure it can withstand the drop tests among the many the NRC has conducted. Why not show the public?

I gather the storage containers are SS. An example of communicating with the

public would be to ask how many of you have seen your stainless steel sinks dissolve. This is the way to fight off the ghost arguments. Another example would be that the highest probability of a radiation leak from a spent fuel shipping container is being hit by a meteorite. Lightning would have no effect nor would fire and brimstone. I cut our safety contractor, NUS, off at

events having a probability of less than  $10\text{E-}9$ . I would not accept an event that entailed a volcano erupting at the Cape while Galileo was on the launch pad.

In my experience, only a fool takes a risk without expectation of a benefit.

A person does not take the risk of driving a car to the grocery store except

for the benefit of bringing home the groceries. Our safety efforts culminated

with a risk/benefit analysis required for presidential approval for the launch. Our local politicians and intervenors only harp on the poorly perceived risks. The DOE should concentrate as well on the potential benefits

to the State - how many \$ will flow in over time. I have long believed that the State that accepts the site should be adequately "bribed."

When we lived at Hilton Head Island, the residents were in an uproar about piping in water from the Savannah River because of the tritium from SRP. I calculated the additional risk as, literally, the equivalent of the car trip

to the meeting or sleeping with their pet cat ( $40\text{K}$  decay). Risk is best evaluated in terms that the public can understand.

In the 80s I had lunch with Wade Ballard, in the DOE's waste management program at the time. He told me about the 10,000 year requirement. Are you kidding? The Great Pyramid was rifled within a few hundred years. Solution. Put up two vault doors. If the first is breached, the intruders would see a hundred foot tunnel littered with skeletons. Even a wild west cowboy had sense enough not to drink from a stream that had a skeleton near it.

Our Mayor was quoted as saying, if you attempt to ship spent fuel through Las Vegas, we will confiscate it. Let him solve the problem and save the government a lot of money. This comment is only to illustrate the mentality you are dealing with in politics as you well know. However, the public deserves to know the undistorted facts.

I'll end with a quote. "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity," MLK, Jr.

Best of Luck, Al.

Attached is a summary of my professional history (MS Word) that should have preceded the above "speech."



- Resume Professional Word.doc